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II

Japan

Okinawa Government Reacts to Alleged Base Plan

OW1704050692 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 17 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] The prefectural government showed great interest in the OKINAWA TIMES report about the new U.S. defense plan which will withdraw the Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III-MEF—with a strength of about 18,000) presently stationed in Okinawa by the end of the century and reduce the area of U.S. military bases in Okinawa to one-third of its present size. It said on 16 April: "We hope for the realization of the plan. To plan for the use of returned land, the formulation of the Law on Special Measures for Promoting the Diversion of Military-Occupied Land will be an urgent task." This issue was also taken up in an emergency interpellation in the House of Representatives' Special Committee on Okinawa held on the same day. Governments from localities adjoining the bases all indicated expectation for the realization of the plan, saying "if the plan is actually implemented, this will add momentum to plans for utilizing the returned land." On the other hand, in response to a telephone inquiry from the OKINAWA TIMES, the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington stated that "We have not heard about any concrete plans to reduce U.S. forces in Okinawa. The Department of Defense is in the process of drawing up a plan." It avoided talking about the new defense plan specifically.

After learning that a drastic plan for withdrawing U.S. forces in Okinawa exists, Governor Ota expressed his expectations, giving the following comment: "When I visited the United States last year, I was told during meetings with U.S. Government and congressional officials that the United States would start formulating a plan for the reduction of overseas forces in 1993. I am not sure if they were referring to the plan that is being reported at present. This plan contains very comprehensive measures. I really hope that it will be executed." He again emphasized the need to formulate the Law on Special Measures for Promoting the Diversion of Military-Occupied Land as soon as possible in preparation for plans to utilize the returned land.

Regarding the issue of the return of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, the prefectural government intends to cooperate with local authorities and landlords and make all possible preparations to ensure that the administration would be able to cope with the situation promptly.

At the House of Representatives' Special Committee on Okinawa on 16 April, Kosuke Uehara (Social Democratic Party) took up the new U.S. defense plan and sought the national government's views on this. In response, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "we checked with the U.S. Embassy in Japan for verification, but we were told that the reports are not true," thus denying the existence of the said defense plan. Both the Defense Facilities Administration Agency and the U.S. Marine Corps Okinawa Public Affairs Office have also given the comment that "we know nothing about it."

The second phase (1993-1994) of the U.S. Department of Defense's present plans for the reorganization of U.S. forces in the Asia and Pacific region (EASI) [East Asia Strategic Initiative] calls for the reduction of U.S. Forces Japan, mainly forces stationed in Okinawa, to the tune of "around 500 personnel." It is believed that the new defense plan that has just been disclosed is a separate reduction plan.

Table of U.S. Military Bases and Facilities Cited in the U.S. Department of Defense's Withdrawal Plan (data as of 31 March 1992)

Facilities	Location	Area (hectares)	Affiliation	Purpose	No. of Landlords
Northern Training Area	Kunigami-son, Higashi-son	8,288	Marine Corps	training	58
Aha Training Area	Kunigami-son	480	Marine Corps	training	1
Okuma Rest Center	Kunigami-son	55	Air Force	misc.	222
Iejima Auxiliary Airfield	Ie-son	801	Air Force	training	1,127
Yaedake Communications Facility	Motobu-cho, Nago City	23	Air Force	communications	50
Kesaji Communications Facility	Higashi-son	59	Navy	communications	52
Onna Communications Facility	Onna-son	63	Marine Corps	barracks	429
Ginbaru Training Area	Kin-cho	60	Marine Corps	training	113
Kin Red Beach Training Area	Kin-cho	2	Marine Corps	training	20
Kin Blue Beach Training Area	Kin-cho	39	Marine Corps	training	205
Senaha Communications Facility	Yomitan-son	61	Air Force	communications	352
Chibana Site	Okinawa City	1	Air Force	communications	1
Sobe Communications Facility	Yomitan-son	54	Navy	communications	450
Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield	Yomitan-son	191	Marine Corps	training	216
Tengan Pier	Gushikawa City	3	Navy	port	10

Table of U.S. Military Bases and Facilities Cited in the U.S. Department of Defense's Withdrawal Plan (data as of 31 March 1992) (Continued)

Facilities	Location	Area (hectares)	Affiliation	Purpose	No. of Landlords
Camp Courtney	Gushikawa City	136	Marine Corps	barracks	524
Camp McTureous	Gushikawa City	39	Marine Corps	barracks	223
Camp Shields	Okinawa City	70	Navy, Air Force	barracks	215
Sunabe Depot	Chatan-cho	0.3	Air Force	depot	2
Camp Kuwae	Chatan-cho	108	Marine Corps	medical facility	526
Awase Communications Facility	Okinawa City	55	Navy	communications	389
Futenma Airfield	Ginowan City	483	Marine Corps	airfield	2,119
Engineering Corps Office	Urasoe City	5	Army	office	2
Naha Cold Storage	Naha City	building only	Air Force	depot	1
Naha Service Center	Naha City	1	Marine Corps	misc.	state-owned
Army Fuel Depot	Gushikawa City and 4 other facilities	130	Marine Corps	misc.	853

Okinawan Leaders on Retrenchment

OW1704125092 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 17 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Text]Political Parties

Substantial Retrenchment Welcomed

Kei Shimura, president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Okinawa Prefecture Federation: If the reports are true, it means that a substantial retrenchment of the bases will be realized, and that will be a welcome development. What the LDP prefectural federation has been advocating would have been achieved and this will be a very desirable thing. This is a dividend of peace.

Another aspect of the base issue, however, is the effective utilization of returned land. Whether or not we have a plan for it depends on stimulating demand for land. Setting aside the question of mountains and forest land, if the Futenma Airfield, which is located in an urban area, is going to be returned, we have to be prepared for new pains in formulating new schemes to utilize the land in such a way that can produce income exceeding the present 3.8 billion yen in lease payments.

Withdrawal of Bases a Matter of Course

Koei Neho, chairman of the Japan Communist Party Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters: The realization of an "Okinawa with no nuclear weapons and bases, and abundant in greenery" has been the prefecture's people's consistent dream. If the reports are true, we must further promote an upsurge in the people's public opinion and movement to realize the plan. The withdrawal of the bases is important for the realization of peace in Okinawa, as well as for the economic development of the prefecture. This is the great consensus among the prefecture's people. Moreover, with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there is no reason for the Japan-U.S. Security Pact to exist. The withdrawal of the bases is a matter of course. Our party is determined to further promote the movement to scrap the security pact and withdraw the bases together with the prefecture's people.

Early Realization Hoped

Zenshun Arakaki, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters: We hope that reports about the U.S. defense plan are true, and that the plan will be implemented. Since the hypothetical enemy of the Japanese and U.S. Governments has disappeared, the retrenchment and withdrawal of the bases is a matter of course; however, if the bombers, nuclear-powered submarines, and ammunition and supply depots stay put, the strategic role of the bases will remain unchanged.

The question lies in the LDP government's submissiveness to the United States, and in whether we should tolerate the U.S. strategy of using Okinawa as the base for the domination of one country over the whole world. It is high time to question our international role based on the Constitution, and it is an urgent task to realize the Law on Special Measures for Promoting the Diversion of Military-Occupied Land immediately.

Legislation of the Law on Special Measures for Promoting the Diversion of Military-Occupied Land Urged

Soko Shimabukuro, chairman of the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party: If the report that the withdrawal of the Marine Expeditionary Forces in Okinawa is included in the U.S. military reduction plan is true, this is indeed welcome news.

While the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Okinawa is a matter of course in the context of the changes in the international situation after the end of the cold war, I believe that owing to military and political cross purposes, the scale and schedule of the withdrawal will still experience some complications. It is a fact, however, that

basically we are heading toward withdrawal. For this reason, it is absolutely necessary for the "Law on Special Measures for Promoting the Diversion of Military-Occupied Land" to be legislated as soon as possible to facilitate the utilization of returned land.

Greater Momentum in Local Development Seen

Taiichi Shiraho, chairman of the Komeito Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters: The good news that the bases are to be retrenched substantially means that we have overcome another obstacle for Okinawa to achieve a great leap into the 21st century. It will add momentum to the Okinawans' long-cherished dream of developing the prefecture into a "peaceful and prosperous" hometown. We would like to share that joy; however, we must not be careless until our dream becomes reality. In particular, we must closely watch the process of restoring the returned bases and the utilization of returned land. We should remain cautious about an irresponsible withdrawal plan. We insist that the national government should be responsible for laying the groundwork for the return, and we hope that the plan will be realized.

"Dividend of Peace" Rejoiced

Okitatsu Matsumora, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party Okinawa Headquarters: The U.S. Department of Defense announced on 29 January that the second phase of the plans to reduce the forward deployment forces of the United States in the Asia and Pacific region calls for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from major military bases, and the closing down of such bases, including the U.S. bases in Japan, and that the scale and schedule of the reduction plan would be announced in April.

If reports on the new defense plan are true, we welcome this as the "dividends of peace" to Okinawa. We are determined to exert all possible efforts to formulate urgent plans for the utilization of returned land.

Local Leaders

Promote Returned Land Utilization Plans

Seiken Tobaru, mayor of Ginowan City: Of course, we welcome this. We have exerted relentless efforts in organizing forums on how to improve Ginowan citizens' livelihoods, and for the early return of the bases, and we are about to see the fruits of our efforts. Since the return has been realized [as published], it is time for us to work even more vigorously. While various plans for utilizing returned land have come out of the forums, now we have to formulate new strategies for community development. I would like to promote the utilization of returned land backed by citizens' consent without causing any losses to landowners.

National Government Should Be Responsible to the End

Yushin Tome, mayor of Gushikawa City: The marine facility of Camp Courtney is located in our city. It seems that a review of the bases has been under way at a very high tempo. With the relaxation of tension in international relations, I have thought that the return would come sooner or later. So, this did not come as a "complete surprise."

Regarding the utilization of returned land and compensation to landowners, an irresponsible attitude of forgetting about military lands after they have been used would be absolutely impermissible. This is a problem that is beyond the capacity of the local authorities, both financially and institutionally. We hope that the national government will recognize this fully and take the responsibility to the end.

Helpful for the Development of the Town

Kikuo Nakama, mayor of Kin-cho: I have learned from a concerned source that there would be a review of the bases in Okinawa soon, but this has come sooner than I expected. If the reports are true, beaches that are potential tourist attractions will be returned. This will be very helpful for the development of the town.

In our town, we have expected Blue Beach, Ginbaru Training Area, and the Shiohara District to be returned, and we started to formulate our own development program more than 10 years ago; however, such a program has continued to exist only on paper because prospects for return have been unclear.

If the functions of the bases change, and live-shell firing exercises across Prefectural Highway 104 are discontinued, I think the training area from Igei to Yaka, and the military land lying below the Okinawa Expressway, will also be returned. In that case, we will be able to take in public facilities and enterprises, and there is no limit to what we can do.

Cool Response Preferred

Mitsuhide Shimabukuro, deputy village head of Ie-son: At this point, we have not received any formal notices from the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau. We are keeping cool. The village created a project team last year to study what to do if U.S. military bases were opened up in the future. We have started gathering data. We are conducting basic studies on what will happen to landowners if the bases are opened up. There has not been any conclusive evidence that the bases will be opened. It is too early to consider the issue of opening up the bases immediately.

No Comment

Hiroshi Nakahara, village head of Kunigami-son: I was surprised after reading the newspaper. The Northern Training Area is also included among the sites to be returned. It is still unclear whether the whole training area will be returned, and how it will be returned. Right now, we do not have any information. I cannot give any comment.

Groups

Rearrangement and Reduction of Bases a Matter of Course

Zenshun Shingaki, chairman of the Prefectural People's Council To Defend the Constitution and To Oppose the Security Treaty: Rearrangement and reduction of the bases is a matter of course and should be done soon. The U.S. bases on Okinawa have been built on the basis of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union. Now that the world situation is moving toward detente, there is no reason for them to exist. Therefore, the trend of reduction is a matter of course. All the bases should be returned one after another; this is the hope of the prefectural people. However, we are very glad to hear the recent news.

Mapping Out of Mid-Term and Long-Term Employment Plan Urged

Misao Kamiyama, chairman of the All Japan U.S. Forces Employees Union, Okinawa Headquarters: Since it is not the Department of Defense's official announcement, we cannot say anything definite. However, if the proposal is real it will be the largest change we have ever experienced. Speaking from the prefectural people's viewpoint, we can also say it is a matter of course that the rapid changes in the international situation will bring about changes regarding the U.S. bases on Okinawa. Therefore, the recent report is not necessarily a dream. From the prefectural people's viewpoint, we very much welcome it. On the other hand, from the viewpoint of the All Japan U.S. Force Employees Union, it will be a major problem if they start laying off base workers in the wake of immediate base reductions. We have some 7,800 base workers. We hope the smooth transfer of the bases will be made after the government maps out a mid-term and long-term employment plan. We also think it is possible. I would immediately meet the governor for an exchange of views if it is an official announcement. However, since it is only a scoop, we would like to wait awhile to see how the situation develops.

Complete Withdrawal Persistently Urged

Masao Miyagi, chairman of the United Action Liaison Council for the Repeal of the Security Treaty and the Protection of Livelihood and Democracy: As can be seen in the dismantling of the Warsaw Treaty Organization centered around the Soviet Union, the world trend is moving toward disarmament. The United States is faced with financial and trade deficits, and the U.S. people are calling for a reduction in military expenditures. It seems that amid such circumstances, the United States has mapped out a plan to reduce U.S. bases on Okinawa. It is fine with us to reduce the bases on Okinawa to one-third their current size. However, we are demanding their complete withdrawal, and there will be no change in our stance.

Saying it is uncertain as to what will happen on the Korean peninsula or in the Middle East, the United States seems to be thinking about intervening in regional conflicts there as well. I am of the opinion that even if the U.S. bases on Okinawa are reduced to one-third their current size, important bases—including Kadena Air Base—will remain, and the role of Okinawa as a base island will not change. We will continue our movement by persistently calling for their complete withdrawal.

Concrete Utilization Plan Needed

Hidenobu Teruya, chairman of the Antiwar and Landowners Association: We welcome the plan to reduce the bases. We have been insisting on their reduction. The problem is the anticipated economic confusion which will be accompanied by a large-scale return of the bases. It is time for the government to legislate a law on special measures for promoting the diversion of military-occupied land. The government should create circumstances in which the landowners can feel at rest, and facilitate the utilization of (land). If there were not any bases to start with, then the land might have been used for some kind of foundation of life. We will never allow their return without utilization plans.

Clarification of Plan for Utilization of Land Urged

Masanobu Tokumoto, chairman of the Prefectural Base Land and Land Owners' Association, which has 29,700 members: There should be no U.S. bases. These are products of the war. We will be pleased if they are returned on the basis of an agreement between Japan and the United States. After all, it is a fact that the land was taken away from us by force and has been continually used for bases up through today. They should return the land after making it readily available for use by landowners. We want the central and prefectural governments to clarify a plan for utilization of the land if it is to be returned after the withdrawal of the bases.

More on Plan To Send Volunteers to Cambodia

OW1504140392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan's largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) has compiled a plan to send about 2,000 noncombat civilians to Cambodia to help reconstruct the country after its 13-year civil war, party officials said Wednesday.

An SDP panel compiled the plan in opposition to a government bill that would allow the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel overseas to join UN peacekeeping operations, the officials said.

In the opposition plan, the panel was quoted as saying that Japan should send about 2,000 international disaster relief personnel, police, election monitors, and young volunteers to Cambodia to join the UN peacekeeping operations.

Among the civilians would be about 1,000 young people who are members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), a public organization set up in 1965

which has so far sent some 11,000 young people to provide assistance in about 50 developing countries.

On financial contribution to Cambodia, the plan said the SDP proposes the extension of about 1 billion dollars (130 billion yen) to promote the UN ceasefire, monitor operations, quicken refugee repatriation, and the country's reconstruction.

The party also compiled a plan to help Cambodian refugees settle in the country and to assist the build-up of an infrastructure there.

The SDP plan said the party disagrees with Japan participating in the removal of a large number of land mines buried in Cambodia during the 13-year-old civil war which ended last October.

The senior SDP official said that from the standpoint of international law, the former warring factions in Cambodia have a duty to remove the mines.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) plans to deploy 15,900 troops at strategic points through Cambodia by May 20 to disarm the warring factions and to remove the mines.

The SDP will call on the Japanese Government to implement the party's plan to help reconstruct Cambodia.

The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have proposed a bill that would allow SDF personnel to join UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

The bill is currently pending in the ordinary session of the opposition-controlled House of Councillors after its approval last December by the House of Representatives.

Brazilian Minister Urges Private Financing

PY1704024692 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira today in Tokyo proposed broader private sector participation in financing projects on development and environmental preservation.

[Begin Cristiano Romero recording; from Tokyo] The minister proposed establishment of a mechanism to encourage the private sector to finance the sustained development of poor countries. The proposal was made on the second day of the meeting of illustrious personalities on the overall financing of development and the environment.

Minister Marques Moreira suggested that the $55 million annual budget earmarked by wealthy nations for loans to developing countries be increased by, at least, $5 to $9 million. The minister also wanted the definition of new mechanisms for the disbursement of credits by multilateral organizations and the establishment of new and more democratic criteria for granting loans.

The possibility that Third World countries could stop paying interest on their foreign debt and invest this amount in development projects compatible with environmental protection was also debated today.

Tomorrow, on the last day of the meeting, the Tokyo Declaration for the UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED] will be concluded. The Brazilian delegation expects the result of the current meeting being held in Tokyo to have a positive influence on the UNCED, which will be held in six weeks in Rio de Janeiro. [end recording]

'Eminent Persons' Discuss Environmental Issue

OW1504134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, 15 April KYODO—A group of 29 eminent persons, including former national leaders, began discussion Wednesday in Tokyo on a proposed 600 billion dollar annual bill for cleaning up the world's environment.

The 29 participants in the Eminent Persons' Meeting on Environment and Development agreed on the magnitude of the cost, but differed on how it could be realistically met, a United Nations official told a news briefing.

Joseph Wheeler, director of program integration for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED), said most of the participants at the closed-door meeting agreed the clean-up would be costly.

However, they did not agree on a figure of 125 billion dollars suggested by the UNCED Secretariat as the sum industrialized countries could contribute, he said.

Wheeler said the Secretariat has also suggested the cost to developing countries could be as much four or five times higher, bringing the total to around 600 billion dollars, and a number of delegates at the meeting felt the need to diversify the sources of funds if the money is to be found.

He said delegates expressed the belief developed countries will demand assurances that aid programs intended to assist developing countries in gaining "environmental security" are in reality "environmentally friendly."

"If the needs are very large, but the availability of funding at this particular time is meager, we have to ask ourselves how we can approach our populations to ask about the funds if they are limited," Wheeler said.

Participants in the meeting include former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez, and two former presidents of the World Bank.

Wheeler said they also discussed the links between poverty and pollution, Third World debt as a hindrance to environmental programs, the capacity of developing

countries to absorb aid, and the drop in savings rates in member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Earlier, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told the meeting the U.S. Government "has done the most to obstruct progress" toward an international agreement on curbing carbon dioxide emissions, one of the main items on the UNCED agenda.

Carter strongly criticized the administration of President George Bush for its failure to agree with most other countries on the need to set agreed limits on carbon dioxide, considered one of the major causes of global warming.

"My hope is that when we reach Rio de Janeiro (for the "Earth Summit") we will not lower the world's standards on environmental quality simply to accommodate the shortsightedness of a few powerful nations on these key issues," Carter said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in a welcoming address, called on the meeting to recognize the need for international cooperation on environmental issues, which he said have now become "global in scale."

Miyazawa expressed the necessity of enacting legislation for the global environment.

"Our country, at the same time as perfecting scientific standards and analysis for environmental preservation and furthering the active development of technology, must review the way it functions economically and socially as an entity which is in harmony with the earth's environment," he said.

"To this end, I have instructed the relevant ministries to review the legal framework to make it more suited to this new era of global concern."

Miyazawa said in view of Japan's economic strength, it is now expected to play an active role in maintaining the world environment.

He said Japan is committed to setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions.

Issue Tokyo Declaration 17 Apr

OW1704113092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1913 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 (KYODO)—Following is the full text of the Tokyo Declaration on Financing Global Environment and Development issued by the Eminent Persons' Meeting in Tokyo on Friday.

The human future is at risk. Wasteful patterns of production and consumption in industrialized countries together with pervasive poverty and population growth in developing countries are leading to the destruction of the earth's ecological base and intolerable levels of human suffering and deprivation. This dangerous course jeopardizes the prospects for the survival and well-being of future generations.

It is time to reevaluate the thinking which underlies our present society. A new environmental ethics needs to be established, and new value systems accepted and supported by the citizens and grassroots levels, and new approaches toward development based on the principles of strengthening the links between people, environment and development; adjusting our behavior to the natural order that lies behind the limited and vulnerable ecosystems of the earth; sharing the environmental space equitably among all countries of the world, and acting to meet the needs of the future as well as present generations.

The June Earth Summit in Rio offers a unique opportunity to forge a global partnership for sustainable development to eradicate poverty and to safeguard the environment upon which human life depends.

This global partnership must start with a commitment by the developed countries to sharply reduce the burden they impose on the carrying capacity of the earth's ecosystem. They must change to non-destructive production and consumption patterns and stand ready to support developing countries, which on their part, should articulate new strategies to accelerate the pace of their development and deal effectively with both global and national environmental concerns.

In two years of intensive preparations and negotiations, the 175 members of the United Nations have established the basis for agreement in Rio on a comprehensive program of cooperative action, Agenda 21. It includes a broad range of practical measures designed to effect the transition to sustainable development.

Accordingly, we appeal to leaders of all governments to come to the Earth Summit at Rio prepared to commit themselves to the measures required to give effect to a new global partnership for sustainable development.

The main part of the expenditures in the developing countries to implement Agenda 21, which many amount to over 600 billion dollars a year, will come from developing countries themselves. Developing countries will require a supportive international and national economic environment to enable them to mobilize more internal resources.

Of primary importance to developing countries therefore is:

First, increased access to the markets of industrialized countries. In this context, an immediate and meaningful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is absolutely essential.

Second, increased inflow of private investment and technology transfer into developing countries.

Third, durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries will be a prerequisite for their transition to sustainable development.

Fourth, very substantial external support will be needed to complement these efforts.

The UNCED Secretariat has estimated that international concessional financing on the order of 125 billion dollars will be required annually, a figure that should not be surprising given the scale of the efforts needed. The expenditures for both developing and developed countries may appear large, but, on the other hand, they are modest in relation to worldwide military expenditures of some 1 trillion dollars per year and the similarly large amounts of tax concessions and subsidies through which governments encourage and support policies and activities that often damage the environment. In view of the magnitude of the external resources needed for implementation of Agenda 21, the 0.7 percent ODA/GNP target acquires new relevance. Financing for sustainable development should not be viewed as "foreign aid" in traditional terms, it is an essential investment in global environmental security.

It may take time to make time for many developing countries to make the changes and their own policies and management structure required to utilize new funds effectively in their transition to sustainable development. It will also take time for the industrialized countries to establish the revenue sources required to provide such funding. For that purpose in many countries the saving ratios have to be increased while pursuing policies of sustained economic growth.

New and additional financial resources should support the processes of fundamental change which the transition to sustainable development requires.

At our meeting in Tokyo, we focused especially on how funding for sustainable development might be increased to finance implementation of the agenda 21 action program. To that end, we address the following specific recommendations to the governments of the world.

At UNCED, traditional donors, as well as other countries in a position to shoulder a part of the burden, should each enter into a firm and monitorable commitment with regard to ODA in order to ensure a significant increase of resorces for sustainable development.

Equally, developing countries should commit to establishing open, participatory and monitorable implementation systems which give confidence that resources from all sources are well used for the purposes intended.

Immediate significant support should be extended to developing countries for capacity building and technology transfer and for programs and projects ready for implementation, as a credible commitment to the new partnership. Rio is the place for an initial commitment by donors to increase funding for this purpose.

We call for establishment of a continuing process through which developing countries can enter into long-term compacts with donors for funding of their external needs for implementation of Agenda 21 measures under mutually agreed conditions which insure availability of such funds over time and their effective utilization. The World Bank consultative groups and UNDP roundtables should be utilized for the country-level negotiations this would entail.

Japan holds a remarkable record in combining substantial improvements in its domestic environment with unprecedented levels of economic growth. This provides the basis for Japanese leadership in global environment and development cooperation commensurate with its growing weight in the world economy. We appeal to Japan, along with other industrial nations, to assert their leadership at the Earth Summit. We urge other industrial nations to join with Japan prior to the Rio Conference to indicate with some specificity their support for global environment and development cooperation.

Channels and Mechanisms

—a revised and strengthened Global Environment Facility (GEF), to finance programs related to global environmental issues such as the ozone layer, climate change, biodiversity, and oceans as well as other programs of global significance in Agenda 21. The GEF should be fully representative in its decision-making process and transparent in its operations. In order to reach agreement as quickly as possible, we suggest that the finance, economy, and planning ministers scheduled to be in Washington at the end of this month for the meetings of the [word indistinct] Interim and Development Committees and of the GEF participants, hold a specific meeting on this issue in order to evaluate this proposal and to work out its operational guidelines.

—IDA, the most concessional window of the World Bank. A substantial environmentally committed increment, over and above the real volume of IDA-9, would enable the bank to integrate and promote programs in the poorer countries which support sustainable development objectives elaborated in Agenda 21.
—the regional development banks, to support programs of regional concern not covered by GEF.
—UNDP, to enable it to take the lead in supporting and improving capacity building and technology transfer at the national level;
—UNEP, to strengthen its key role as the global environmental agency and center of leadership;
—United Nations University and its subsidiary research and training centers to undertake studies in global environment;
—additional funding to U.N. specialized agencies and other U.N. bodies assigned a wide range of tasks under Agenda 21;
—funding for sustainable development through bilateral channels.
—unilateral initiatives such as national foundations;
—measures including tax incentives to encourage indigenous and foreign private investment, technology cooperation for sustainable development, and measures to improve the coordination and mutual support of private investment and public concessional funds.

—privately supported agencies which have close links to nongovernmental groups of developing countries and which often work most effectively at community and household levels.
—the use of tradable permits should continue to be explored as a means of harnessing market mechanisms to increase efficiency and the pressures to reduce pollution; they might in addition provide a source of external funding for developing counties' environmental priorities.

Mongolia Orders Seamless Steel Pipe From NKK

OW1504104292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—NKK Corp. has exported about 2,300 tons of seamless steel pipes to Mongolia, making the major Japanese steelmaker the first Western company to supply the nation with such a product, NKK said Wednesday.

The deal, valued at more than 2 million dollars and made jointly with Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp., will be financed by a 155 million dollar aid package pledged last September by a group of donor nations and international agencies, NKK said.

As part of the aid package, Japan pledged some 50 million dollars in new loans to the landlocked Asian country.

NKK said the seamless steel pipe will be used in boilers at public residential buildings and hospitals.

Mongolia has to date purchased steel products mainly from the former Soviet Union.

Finance Official Says Economy 'Has Hit Bottom'

OW1504112592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—Japan's economy has hit bottom, and there is no need to cut taxes to boost consumer spending, a top Finance Ministry official said Wednedsay.

"When people say the situation is serious, the situation is such that (the economy) has already hit bottom," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

He shrugged off weak consumer spending data for March, as shown in sales at Tokyo-area department stores, which were reported Tuesday to have plunged 7.8 percent from a year earlier.

"That probably reflected unstable weather conditions," he said, citing rains on the weekends during the month.

Readership Losses Close ASAHI JOURNAL

OW1504122792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The ASAHI SHIMBUN said Wednesday it will suspend publication of its weekly ASAHI JOURNAL magazine with the May 29 issue due to slumping circulation.

Despite drastic changes in the past two years, the progressive-oriented magazine has seen its readership fall below 60,000, prompting ASAHI to suspend publication of the magazine, which has been losing hundreds of millions of yen a year, ASAHI officials said.

ASAHI's publication bureau is considering launching a new magazine more suitable for the times, possibly next spring, the officials said.

The ASAHI JOURNAL, a Japanese-language magazine targeted at progressive citizens and students, has offered news, commentary, and criticism, since March 1959, the year before a mass movement against revision of the Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty.

Its circulation peaked at 263,198 in the second half of fiscal 1968 at the height of Japan's anti-Vietnam War and peace movements.

But readership began to dwindle around 1970, starting nearly two decades of losses for the publisher of Japan's second-biggest newspaper.

To put a brake on the declining circulation, the ASAHI appointed star newspaper reporter Tetsuya Chikushi editor of the magazine in 1984.

During his years at the helm, Chikushi—now a popular television news anchor—engineered what he termed a "new academism policy" and coined the buzzword "shinjinrui," or "new generation" to explain the rapid change in values among young Japanese.

But circulation continued to fall, and in May 1990, ASAHI appointed the magazine's first woman editor-in-chief, Mitsuko Shimomura.

Shimomura, also a popular ASAHI reporter, drastically altered the magazine, promoting international affairs and stories on women.

The ASAHI JOURNAL's average circulation fell to 66,148 copies in the first half of calendar 1991, according to a survey by Japan's Audit Bureau of Circulations.

North Korea

Yang Shangkun Departs Pyongyang Following Visit

SK1704104392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China left here today by special plane after paying an official goodwill visit to Korea upon the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, saw off President Yang Shangkun.

Set up at the airport were sloganboards reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," "Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea," "Long live the great Communist Party of China," "Warm farewell to Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China," and "Long live the unbreakable militant friendship and solidarity forged in blood between the Korean and Chinese peoples."

Flags of Korea and China were flying on the flag poles.

When President Yang Shangkun, together with President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, came out to the airport, the crowds raised the stormy cheers of "hurrah."

Present at the airport were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces; Vice-Presidents Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol; Premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk; Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam; chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang; and secretary of the WPK Central Committee Han Song-yong who are members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; alternate members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premiers of the Administration Council, department directors of the WPK Central Committee, chairmen and ministers of the Administration Council, leading officials of the central organs and generals of the Korean People's Army.

Also present were Chinese ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi and his embassy officials, diplomatic envoys of various countries, Tian Sheng, member of the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission, members of the delegation of the CPV and Chinese students studying in Korea.

The suite members of President Yang Shangkun came out to the airport to return home.

A farewell function took place at the airport.

President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun reviewed a guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

Women workers, officials of the Chinese Embassy and Chinese students studying in Pyongyang and Children's Union members presented bouquets of fragrant flowers to President Kim Il-song and President Yang Shangkun.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il firmly shook hands with President Yang Shangkun and warmly hugged him at parting, and had a photo taken with him.

President Yang Shangkun expressed deep thanks to President Kim Il-song for showing hospitality during his stay in Korea and boarded the plane.

Thousands of Pyongyangites carrying miniature flags of Korea and China and bunches of flowers in their hands saw off the Chinese guests with warm cheers at the airport.

Yon Hyong-muk Addresses 15 April Celebration

SK1704092692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 15 Apr 92

["Toast" by Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and Administration Council Premier, at the banquet celebrating President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday at Kumsusan Assembly Hall on 15 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Comrades, esteemed heads of parties and states from foreign countries, and goodwill delegations and friends from many nations: Today our revolutionary cause is confidently advancing along the single road of socialism by overcoming arduous trials in history under the party's leadership, and brilliant achievements and encouraging events are taking place in the struggle for the Republic's prosperity and flourishing and for national reunification. In this historic time, our people are significantly celebrating the 80th birthday of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, with great joy and a sense of reverence.

Amid great joy in upholding the great leader as generalissimo of the DPRK, which reflects the unanimous will and aspirations of the entire party and all people, our working class, cooperative peasants, working intellectuals, soldiers of the People's Army, South Korean people, and overseas compatriots are celebrating the auspicious April holiday. They are overflowing with the sense of endless reverence and warm thanks to the

respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who effected a basic turning point in the nation's and people's destiny by dedicating his whole life only to the nation, to the people, and to the sacred socialist and communist cause, and who provided our people with today's boundless honor and happiness.

On this significant occasion, I, reflecting the ardent reverence of all of our people, extend highest glory and warmest congratulations to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has performed imperishable feats for the country and the people, for the time and revolution, by leading the Korean revolution to victory for nearly 70 years with outstanding, tested leadership and tireless, devoted struggle and is now greeting his 80th birthday on the road of the glorious revolutionary struggle.

Today, esteemed leaders of parties and states from foreign countries and goodwill delegations and friends from many nations, who are visiting our country to celebrate the respected Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday, have joined this banquet with us. In addition, South Korean revolutionaries, functionaries of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon], and overseas compatriots came with warm greetings of congratulations from South Korean people and overseas compatriots to the respected leader.

At a time when our people are warmly congratulating the great leader on his 80th birthday, the party and state leaders and goodwill delegations and friends from many nations of the world are visiting our country and warmly congratulating our people on their national holiday. This is an expression of their lofty reverence for and deep trust in the respected Comrade Kim Il-song and of their warm goodwill and sincere friendship with our party, with the government of our Republic, and with our people.

I, in the name of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and government of the Republic, warmly welcome the party and state leaders from foreign countries and goodwill delegations and friends from many countries who are sharing the joy with our people by visiting our country and attending the significant congratulatory events on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people. I express deep thanks to them.

I also warmly welcome the Chongnyon delegation, which came to congratulate the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his birthday with the warm greetings of 700,000 Korean residents in Japan; a delegation of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] which came with the sense of boundless reverence of South Korean revolutionaries and people to the respected leader; congratulatory delegations and groups which came from each district and each organization with unanimous greetings of congratulations of overseas compatriots to the great leader, and figures of overseas compatriots. I extend warm compatriotic greetings to them.

Amid the endless joy of our people and countrymen and amid the warm congratulations of the leaders of many nations of the world, goodwill delegations and progressive people of many countries, we are most significantly greeting today's auspicious holiday. With the honor and pride in upholding the respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the leader, we are filled with great emotion and a sense of joy.

The respected Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader who was born in earlier days of national ruin when black clouds of ordeal were cast over our people's heads. He explored the Korean revolution and led the entire historic revolutionary course to victory by breaking through the storms and trials of the 20th Century. He is a lodestar of benevolence and a great man of the nation who achieved the independence and prosperity of the fatherland. He also provided our people with a happy new socialist life.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who embarked on the road of revolution in his teens to rescue the people's destiny which fell into extreme distress, founded the immortal chuche idea to illuminate the path of revolution and waged the bloody anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for 20 years to liberate the country, and has turned our country into a powerful independent socialist state, overcoming difficulties for nearly half a century.

Our people were reduced to being victims of the imperialist powers of the East and West for a long time, suffering sorrow as a small nation. However, we could defeat the two most ferocious imperialists and successfully create a new history of independence, self-sustenance and prosperity in this century because the people created a new path in changing their destiny, holding the great Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the leader. He discovered and embodied the chuche principle of deeply trusting the popular masses and of depending on their strength, and fully demonstrated our people's revolutionary spirit and national wisdom.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song built the WPK that is possessed of tested leadership ability and enjoys the unquestioned trust of the popular masses by making tireless efforts through his life and has built up a powerful independent driving force of the revolution by rearing a faithful and heroic people with unbounded, noble affection and lofty virtues. As a result, the cause of the Korean revolution has been able to dynamically advance along the road of our-style socialism centered on the popular masses without the slightest vacillation even in the vortex of the fast-changing history.

The great leader built our party under a far-reaching plan to make our party and people steadfastly defend our revolution's principle which started in the Mt. Paektu forest and accomplish the socialist cause of chuche. He has also laid a solid foundation for tenaciously carrying forward the party's idea and leadership. This is an incomparable, great joy for our people in view of the world situation.

The steadfast spirit of national independence, ardent patriotism and broad magnanimity of Comrade Kim

Il-song, whom all the people look up to and revere as the sun of the nation, stir the entire Korean people and draw them into the nationwide reunification movement irrespective of ideology and ideas and, in this powerful flow of history, a bright vista full of vicissitudes is opening before the cause of reunification.

When socialism was blazing the trial, leaving the first footprints in mankind's history, Comrade Kim Il-song developed the Korean revolution independently and creatively, made profound and unique achievements in ideology and theory, gained valuable experience in practice, immensely enriched the theoretical and practical wealth guaranteeing the victory of the socialist and communist cause and made a great historical contribution to mankind's common cause of global independence. For this, he enjoys boundless respect and trust from the world's progressive people.

The course of the respected Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities of nearly 70 years is a brilliant chronicle of the struggle of a great thinker, theoretician, and outstanding statesman that will be handed down through generations along with the history of the 20th century for the long struggle and rich exploits dedicated to the cause of national, class, and human liberation and for the immortal contribution made to the development of the times with the man-centered new revolutionary idea and gigantic revolutionary practice. It is a history of the noble struggle of a great leader of the people who has devoted his all to the people, sharing his destiny and weal and woe with them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who pushed his way through thousands of miles through snowstorms and bloody battles, eating in the wind and sleeping in the dew for many years for the liberation of the country and undergoing all sorts of hardships and difficulties to build a prosperous country and a dignified nation, is continuing the history of brilliant leadership and noble efforts by victoriously leading our people's socialist construction and the cause of national reunification, full of vigor, although he has reached the age of 80. We can hardly calm the stirring sense of emotion and gratitude.

Our people, who have emerged victorious, closely united behind the party in idea and purpose, morality, and obligation, with the leader at the center, will remain unfailingly loyal to the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, unswervingly carrying forward the tradition of singlehearted unity with the leader, the party, and the masses generation after generation in any storm and stress and will continue to staunchly fight for the revolution's final victory under the party's leadership with a single heart.

It is a precious conclusion of the revolutionary struggle carried out by our people under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song that socialism is the natural order of history and it will win victory without fail. This is our party's and people's invariable faith.

Our people will actively struggle to effect upsurges in the socialist cause in firm unity with the people of fraternal socialist nations by invariably upholding the banner of socialism, the revolutionary banner. We will further strengthen friendship and cooperation with the progressive people of all nations under the ideal of independence, peace, and friendship, and will make every effort to build a free, peaceful, and independent new world.

The road ahead of the revolution is arduous, and the situation is grave. However, as long as there is the leadership of the great leader and the great party and the indomitable strength of our revolutionary ranks, our people's cause for national reunification and for socialism and communism will be victorious without fail.

In this significant occasion of celebrating the respected leader's 80th birthday, I, reflecting the unanimous wishes and ardent aspiration of all of our people and all fellow countrymen, now propose a toast to national reunification, to the revolution's final victory, to the nation's everlasting prosperity, to the happiness of all future generations, and to good health and long life of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people.

South Korea

'Two-Faced' U.S. Stance on Nuclear Issue Berated

SK1704105992 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 15 Apr 92 p 2

[From the "Fluorosocope" column by Chong Yon-chu, Washington-based correspondent]

[Text] Saying that aerial bombing should be conducted or an Entebbe version of assault should be made, the United States has made a fuss over North Korea's "nuclear development," arousing the world's public opinions. In this connection, the targets under suspicion are a 30-megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon and a plant building nearby, which looks like "nuclear reprocessing facilities."

According to nuclear specialists, when spent nucear fuel is reprocessed through the operation of a 30-megawatt nuclear reactor, approximately some 30 grams of plutonium can be produced per day, and if the reactor is consecutively operated for 300 days, approximately nine kg of plutonium can be produced. With nine kg of plutonium, an atomic bomb comparable to the one dropped on Nagasaki can be produced.

The amount of plutonium which Japan is planning to import from France in the first stage of its plan this year is about one ton. One ton of plutonium can be used to produce tens of sophisticated modern nuclear weapons far surpassing the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in capability.

Japan made plans to import a total of 100 tons of plutonium over the next 20 years. The one ton of

plutonium, which is the subject of controversy at present, is the first shipment of the 100 tons which Japan is planning to import for its ambitious project.

It is quite natural and rather belated that Japan's plan for importing so much plutonium is arousing deep concern and worries among many people. Moreover, transporting it by sea from Europe requires a trip halfway around the earth, which is causing deep worries over safety in the course of transport. Therefore, in the end, even the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] urged the Japanese Government to place the plutonium under IAEA control.

Nevertheless, in actuality, the U.S. Government, which has the right to decide on the Japanese possession and transportation of this plutonium, approves it, far from being opposed to it. As a result, criticism of the inconsistency in the U.S. policy opposing the proliferation of nuclear material is rising. (According to the U.S.-Japan nuclear energy treaty concluded in 1988, the United States and Japan approved strictures barring one party from transporting and storing plutonium if the government of the other party to the treaty opposes it.)

Criticizing this dual policy of the United States, Major General Paul Revental, member of the Nuclear Control Committee, urged: "The United States should abandon such an inconsistent policy on plutonium."

Saying, "Let's restrain ourselves from supplying weapons to the Middle East area for its security," President Bush sold approximately $6 billion worth of weapons to the Middle East, even after proposing a "Middle East disarmament plan," and the United States sold approximately $19 billion worth of weapons to the Middle East over 17 months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Nevertheless, the United States advocates "peace in the Middle East" more often than anyone else.

The U.S. generosity over Japan's import of 100 tons of plutonium, its intimidation, tantamount to "Desert Storm" against North Korea and Iraq over the nuclear issue, sales of weapons to the Middle East, and talking about peace are all inconsistent remarks and acts that cannot be interpreted as other than two-faced.

'Shocking' U.S. Wheat Exports to North Examined

SK1704011592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Export of Wheat to North Korea"]

[Text] While the United States has remained adamant about pressing North Korea to give up its secret development of nuclear weapons for a couple of years, it did export $10 million worth of wheat to the hard-line Communist state toward the end of last year. This is really a shocking development for South Korea, in particular, because Washington only belatedly admitted the shipment which it elucidated as having a humanitarian dimension.

Reports have it that the U.S. Administration authorized wheat exporters to sell a total of $1.2 billion worth of wheat over two years, in addition to another $100,000 worth of medicines exported there last year.

We understand that the U.S. export of foodgrains and medical goods was made possible after its law on trading with the enemy was revised in October, 1988. However, the export of American goods to North Korea has been sluggish, as compared with the total amount already authorized by the government, apparently due largely to North Korea's tight foreign exchange situation which has led to a marked preference for barter trading.

It is apparent that North Korea is seeking to improve relations with the United States and Japan by trying to make the utmost use of global pressure to stop its nuclear project with its actual aim being to get economic assistance from abroad.

As the U.S. State Department has established a policy that demands Pyongyang first become reconciled with Seoul, discontinue terrorism and abide by all international conventions as preconditions for normalizing their ties, Washington is called upon to abide by its own principles and closely consult with Seoul on its trade with Pyongyang.

Korean Workers Leave Libya via Overland Route

SK1704054692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0528 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry said Friday that 120 South Korean workers had left Libya for home by land as the U.N. air embargo had grounded all flights.

They will travel to Jerba Airport in Tunisia, from where they will fly on a Swiss plane to Zurich and catch a Korean Air flight to Seoul on Sunday.

On Sunday, 120 construction workers will set out for home by the same route, arriving here Tuesday.

Japanese 'Raid' on Yokohama Consulate Detailed

SK1704041192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Rampage at Diplomatic Compound"]

[Text] The government has rightly protested the recent raid on the Korean Consulate General in Yokohama, Japan, by two Japanese right-wing extremists as an abominable act defying Korea's extraterritorial rights there. Whatever the motive, it was an unexcused violation of international rights. And it poses typical implications to Koreans whose country was once mercilessly trampled on by the Japanese during the first half of this century.

Fortunately, the two members of the "Association for the Enhancement of the Justice of the Great Japan" were caught by police on the premises. However, we cannot

but wonder if the Japanese law-enforcement authorities were truly unable to prevent the flagrant encroachment. It followed a series of protests outside Korean diplomatic missions elsewhere in Japan which also should have been dealt with properly.

The Japanese protests were prompted by a fictitious Korean television drama scene depicting the attempted assassination of Emperor Akihito by a descendant of the royal family of the Choson Dynasty. The Japanese Government first expressed regret through its spokesman. It then had its ambassador in Seoul convey its displeasure to the Korean Government, followed by protests by the radical rightists.

The Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, the producer of the drama, "The Kingdom in Wrath," says the 16-part series depicting the lives of the royal descendants of Korea's last dynasty is sheerly a fictional presentation not intended to offend the Japanese. However, in the words of the Japanese, the attempt on the life of the emperor, even if it is imaginary, would be something unthinkable in a country where the monarch is revered as a constitutional symbol.

But the drama producers contend that the fictional rendition is protected by the freedom of expression enjoyed in Korea. Thus, they say, the government is not in a position to influence the private television station to restrain with regard to producing the series, as requested by the Tokyo government.

However, in view of the need for maintaining close relations between Korea and Japan, no further deterioration of the situation revolving around the drama is desirable. The latest dispute should serve as an occasion for the two countries to refrain from what might provoke each other's animosity. Whatever their sentiment, the rightists' rampage into the diplomatic establishment is inexcusable. The Japanese government is called upon to see to it that no similar incident recurs. Any recurrence could lead to a dilemma.

'Right-Wing Jingoists' Criticized

SK1704041092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Rude Japanese Sentiment"]

[Text] It is indeed deplorable that a number of thoughtless Japanese, admittedly extreme right-wing jingoists, illegally intruded into the South Korean Consulate General in Yokohama, Japan Monday in protest against a Korean TV drama which at one point featured an abortive attempt on the life of the incumbent Japanese emperor.

These Japanese, apparently too loyal to their monarch, are reported to have expressed their displeasure with the TV series shown on the MBC [Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation] network.

The intrusion in a car into the grounds of the Korean consulate, an extraterritorial area under international law, is intolerable. Japanese police authorities should have reinforced guards at the Korean missions in Japan especially since anti-Korea demonstrations had started there days before.

In this regard, the Japanese Government first should make a sincere apology for its failure to prevent the flagrant violation of international law by the intruders.

The TV drama shown by the private broadcasting network is nothing but a fiction which Japanese need not be so nervous about if they were just ready to accommodate freedom of expression.

Japanese right-wing chauvinists have come up with an accumulated protest against South Korea for not only the TV drama but also Koreans' burning of the Japanese monarch in effigy last January when Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visited Seoul and also for the controversy here over the inhumane mobilization of Korean girls as "teishintai" or comfort women for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

It is especially regrettable that some Japanese Government officials have said that the portrayal of an attempt on the life of the emperor cannot but disturb the Japanese people's sentiments. These remarks are believed to have sparked the right-win extremists' unrestrained anti-Seoul demonstration.

The Japanese taking issue with the Korean condemnation of the "teishintai" atrocities is really unpardonable as the case of the thief whipping his victim. The Japanese should have still more repented for the indescribable inhumanities committed against Koreans during the colonial rule of Korea.

However, we do not want the binational relationship between the two neighboring countries to be further strained because of the unhappy past. Accordingly, both nations and their mass media in particular are better advised to prudently avoid irritating each other and their people's national sentiments from now on.

Seoul To Join OECD Trade Committee

SK1704103192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0904 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea will join the Trade Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in September as an observer and will seek to participate in the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), economic planning board officials said Friday.

The decision was made in an economic ministers' meeting on external cooperation presided over by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

Participation in the major forums of OECD, a powerful grouping of industrialized countries, would help Korea promptly recognize trends in international trade and

effectively deal with moves by the industrialized world toward a multilateral trade system, the officials said.

OECD has repeatedly called for Seoul to join as Korea's trade volume is the world's 12th greatest.

As Korea's trade environment will be reviewed under the trade policy review mechanism of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by June, joining the OECD Trade Committee was unlikely to add grave restrictions to operation of trade policy, they said.

Korea's intention to join the OECD NEA would be officially conveyed in the first half of the year. Korea's nine reactors rank it ninth in the world in terms of nuclear power generation and facilities.

NEA membership would ease access to nuclear technologies.

NEA, whose 23 members include the United States and Japan, leads international nuclear policy and supports joint development of technology.

Assistant Economic Planning Minister Kim In-ho said OECD was expected to sound out member countries on Korea's joining the trade committee in a trade policy trend workshop in Seoul in June.

Officials Discuss Inter-Korean Economic Exchanges

SK1704025892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0119 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea have made "considerable progress" in the field of economic cooperation, and the pace will accelerate when the issue of the North's nuclear development is resolved, Economic Planning Board officials said Friday.

The two Koreas, with the understanding that transactions between them constitute "internal" trade, have agreed to exchange goods and materials without tariffs using open accounts.

In addition, they are near agreement on an investment guarantee and avoidance of double taxation, forming an environment conducive to direct deals and joint investment, the officials said.

When direct deals begin in earnest, each side will designate a bank, and the bank will settle accounts after the exchange of goods and materials in a given period of time.

Goods and materials will be shipped directly, and a land route is likely to be opened between Kaesong in the North and Munsan in the South, a sea route between Inchon and Nampo, and an air route between Kimpo Airport and Sunan Airport, the officials said.

South and North Korea are to work out a mechanism to mediate disputes that might arise in the course of expanding deals between them.

"Considerable progress has been made in the field of economic exchange owing largely to North Korea's positive attitude. When the nuclear issue, the last stumbling block to inter-Korean exchange, is resolved, economic cooperation will go into full swing," one of the officials said.

Finishing touches would be put to preparations for full-scale inter-Korean economic exchanges at a meeting of the South-North Korean subcommittee for exchanges and cooperation opening at the truce village of Panmunjom on Saturday, they said.

The two sides would also discuss how to reinforce the positive trend at the seventh inter-Korean prime ministers' talks May 5-8 in Seoul, and in meetings of the inter-Korean economic exchange and cooperation committee, to be formed May 18 at the latest, they said.

The South Korean Government will map out guidelines for trading with North Korea and investing in the North, and measures to prevent excessive competition among firms seeking to advance into the North.

First Quarter Foreign Investment Up 74.8 Percent

SK1704040792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0237 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Foreign investment increased in value between January and March, but foreign investment in machineries, metals, electronics and other key manufacturing sectors declined, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

First-quarter investment was 311 million U.S. dollars, up 74.8 percent from the same period last year, in 73 projects, down 3.9 percent.

The rise was led by a 97 million-dollar investment in the construction of a diaper factory by Procter and Gamble Co. of the United States and a 24 million-dollar investment in a tourist marine aquarium in Cheju Island by An Chol-chung, a Korean resident in Japan.

Investment in the manufacturing industry rose 106.1 percent to 235 million dollars, and in the service industry climbed 19.2 percent to 77 million dollars.

Investment in machineries and metals dropped 58.4 percent to 9.6 million dollars and in electrics and electronics fell 67.9 percent to 3.8 million dollars.

Chemical and pharmaceutical investment rose 37.4 percent to 53.5 million dollars and 805.3 percent to 37.7 million dollars, respectively.

In the service sector, investment was tallied at 9.5 million dollars for international trade, down 22.1 percent, 1.03 million dollars for finance, down 91 percent, and 28.3 million dollars for accommodation, up 33.7 percent.

Investment from Europe amounted to 108 million dollars (34.7 percent of the total) in 20 projects, ahead of the United States at 106 million dollars (34.2 percent) in 18 projects.

Investment from Japan was 88 million dollars in 26 projects, down 33.3 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Increased Imports of Petroleum Products Noted

SK1704040892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0131 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Along with the increase in oil consumption, imports of petroleum products like kerosene and naphtha have risen substantially this year.

Imports of petroleum products in January-February totaled 24,970,000 barrels, up 26.2 percent over 19,780,000 barrels a year earlier, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Friday.

Oil product imports rose 9.3 percent last year.

Kerosene imports totaled 3,853,000 barrels in the two months, an increase of 323.5 percent, and naphtha imports amounted to 7,149,000 barrels, up 217.8 percent.

Propane imports reached 6,068,000 barrels, a rise of 29.3 percent, and butane imports jumped 30.1 percent.

Imports of gas oil and Bunker-C decreased 43.3 percent and 35.1 percent, respectively, from same months last year as Korean refineries expanded their capacity.

Kerosene imports skyrocketed because more families turned to it as a household fuel, but refineries cannot produce enough to meet the growing demand.

Naphtha imports increased because the petro-chemical industry expanded facilities considerably and so needed more naphtha, a basic raw material.

Grain Self-Sufficiency Continues Steady Decline

SK1704040992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0205 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea's self-sufficiency in staple food grains has fallen below 40 percent, according to statistics compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Self-sufficiency in grains like rice, barley and corn dropped from 73.1 percent in 1975 to 56 percent in 1980, 48.4 percent in 1985 and 43 percent in 1990.

Last year, the country grew 6,560,000 tons of grain and consumed 17,520,000 tons for a self-sufficiency rate of 37.5 percent.

Dr. Yun Po-sop of the Korea Rural Economy Institute says the share of domestic farm, fisheries and livestock products in the total caloric intake of Koreans dropped from 55 percent in 1988 to 50 percent in 1990 due to growing imports of foodstuffs and to shrinkage in the agricultural workforce and amount of land under cultivation.

Since 1986, six of every 100 people in rural areas have left each year. Nine left last year, or 590,000 people in all.

The dwindling farming population led to the loss of 18,000 hectares of rice paddies last year alone.

Chong Blames Government for 'Economic Failures'

SK1704053092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0253 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Hyundai group founder Chong Chu-yong, leader of the second opposition Unification National Party [UNP], accused the government Friday of failing the nation's economy by leaving policy-making in the hands of a few people, and of suppressing a Hyundai Group subsidiary for political reasons.

"The Sixth Republic assigned economic policies to an extremely limited number of people, and thus brought about economic failures. To revitalize the nation's economy, it is urgent to restore confidence in economic policies and normal relations between politics and economics," Chong told a breakfast meeting organized by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association at the Korea Press Center.

"The tax controversy over Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. is a form of politically motivated suppression by the government... I have cut all my ties with the Hyundai Group subject to the commercial law," the founder of the nation's largest conglomerate said.

"If you bring wealth to a certain level, it grows geometrically from then on owing to the trust you have gained. I built my fortune like this, and so there is nothing immoral or regretful about it. The Hyundai Group has not committed corruption nor benefitted from political power since the Third Republic."

Chong's fifth son, Chong Mong-hon, vice chairman of Hyundai Merchant Marine, is likely to be charged soon with tax evasion and forgery. He is suspected of having ordered company officials to raise a secret fund of 11.2 billion won, thus evading 5.8 million won in taxes.

Chong said economic justice could be done when marriages of political and economic power were stopped, and when financial transactions were made in real names and real estate speculation was uprooted.

Confirming his intention to run for president in December, Chong said: "I'm not as morally perfect as a Catholic priest or an educator, but I don't think I have something the people would hate and detest."

He admitted using Hyundai organizations in the March 24 general elections.

"But if the ruling and opposition parties join hands and work together well to overcome the current economic difficulties, the Hyundai officials who have entered the Unification National Party will return to their original places," he said.

The UNP did surprisingly well in the elections, conducted less than two months after its birth, grabbing 31 out of 299 national assembly seats.

Touching on South-North Korean relations, Chong said that, if elected president, he would realize inter-Korean exchange within two years by pursuing dialogue, building confidence and promoting direct deals through the establishment of trade representative offices in Seoul and Pyongyang.

Kim Yong-sun Not Against Pak Tae-chun Bid

SK1704025992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0103 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The contest for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's nomination for president entered a new phase Friday after DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam said he was not opposed to Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun joining the race.

In a sudden turnaround, Kim indicated Thursday that he was prepared to take on Pak and any other candidates, declaring that he would fight for the presidential nomination in an open ballot at the party's May 19 national convention.

Kim's about-face came after he met with President No Tae-u at Chongwadae for their weekly consultation Thursday.

"It was I who first advocated a free competition to select the party nominee at the national convention," he told reporters.

Kim had been opposed to facing Pak, leader of the anti-Kim Democratic Justice Party faction of the DLP. It wasn't immediately clear what prompted Kim to change his attitude, but some party insiders said he could have received a pledge or at least a hint regarding Pak's candidacy.

In his meeting with the president, Kim is understood to have asked No to exert his influence on the party's efforts to prevent an overheated and counterproductive race for the nomination because it could inexorably split the party.

Kim's remark was expected to have a considerable influence on the scheduled meeting of seven leaders of the anti-Kim faction Friday afternoon, convening for the last time to name a single candidate to challenge Kim.

The prospects for the so-called seven-man committee to come up with "a unified candidate" appeared to be bleak as neither Rep. Yi Chong-chan nor Rep. Yi Han-tong would yield their presidential aspirations in favor of Pak, the sources said.

Pak plans to go ahead and force the seven-man committee to select him in a majority decision at Friday's meeting and to become in effect "a unified candidate for the anti-Kim Yong-sam faction" if Yi Chong-chan refuses to give up, the sources said.

In that event, Yi could seek the nomination independently.

The sources said Pak would then make an official announcement on his candidacy on Saturday.

Nevertheless, other DLP leaders were reported Friday to be taking a wait-and-see attitude on Park's intended plans for his candidacy while trying to minimize friction among factions.

In the meantime, the governing party will decide on a list of 6,895 delegates to the national convention Friday.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Trade, Investment Opportunities in SRV Discussed

SRV Official Urges Investment

BK1704035992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 15 (AFP)—Malaysian businesses should take advantage of investment opportunities now available in Vietnam, a senior Vietnamese official said here Wednesday.

Tran Xuan Phoi, senior adviser to the Vietnamese minister of trade and tourism, told reporters that Vietnam would continue to focus on expanding its economic relations with all countries.

Phoi, speaking through an intepreter, said Malaysia and Vietnam would be negotiating new terms to a November 1978 trade agreement to enhance bilateral trade.

"A lot of advantages have come into being to enable us to accelerate our cooperation in many aspects," said Phoi, who was here attending a one-day business seminar on Vietnam.

Phoi said Malaysia and Vietnam recently signed a maritime agreement under which Malaysian vessels would be accorded "most favoured nations" status, while an agreement on air navigation had been expanded.

"These manifest that we all have good will in reinforcing economic cooperation, trade and investment relationships," Phoi said.

"Vietnam's potential lies in its vast market size of 70 million people and abundance of natural resources," Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said at the opening of the seminar.

Phoi said since opening up its economy in 1988, Vietnam had approved 405 projects involving foreign companies with capital totalling 2.92 billion U.S. dollars up to the first quarter of this year.

"The leading ones are from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia and France with projects mainly in oil exploration, food processing, heavy and electronic industries, mining and tourism," Phoi said.

Revision of Trade Pact Possible

BK1604163292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Malaysia is willing to revise the trade pact with Vietnam. The agreement was signed 14 years ago. The deputy minister of international trade and industry, Mr. Chua Jui Meng, said the ministry is willing to change any areas in the agreement that are of Vietnam's interests. He was speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur after officiating at the 1992 Malaysian (?secretaries) conference. Mr. Chua said Vietnam could discuss the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is scheduled to visit that country on Sunday. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz will be among those accompanying the prime minister. Mr. Chua also said Malaysia is encouraging south countries to enter into agreements with it on a bilateral payment system. The system is recommended as it provides a security to traders whose payments are ensured by the central bank.

'Vast Opportunities Available'

BK1604154192 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] More and more of Malaysian businesses are spreading their wings abroad, not in search of foreign investment, but seeking places for them to invest theirs. Our entrepreneurs are becoming increasingly aware of the vast opportunities available for investment in the developing countries, particularly in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, notably in the Indochina states whose economies are undergoing rapid changes. Also, they are encouraged by the government's recently announced plan to offer incentives to Malaysian companies which invest abroad. One of the latest to take up the challenge is a joint venture concern, Planergo Limited, with majority Malaysian interests, which will invest in the development and management of a four-star hotel in Vietnam.

Planergo is a consortium of five companies, two from Malaysia with 51-percent interest, two from Singapore with 44 percent, and a Canadian individual with the remaining 5 percent. Work on the 308-room hotel, reported to be the first-built hotel in Ho Chi Minh City in 30 years, has begun and is expected to be opened for business by the end of next year.

It is a timely move as there is now a dire need for quality hotel rooms in Vietnam in view of its growing tourist industry. Vietnam is currently undergoing rapid economic changes under its industrialization program. Its economic renovation policies, named Doi Moi, are aimed at bringing a more economic liberalization through a free market system, at the same time seeking the much-needed foreign investment. Earlier this year, the Vietnamese Government announced the inclusion of the new articles in the country's Constitution aimed at protecting the assets of foreign companies and guaranteeing them against nationalization.

This is indeed reassuring to foreign investors who are willing to invest and help Vietnam develop economically. For Malaysian entrepreneurs, their regular visits to that country have provided them with better insight and understanding of the market in that country.

Presently, Malaysian investments in Vietnam are estimated at around 170 million ringgit, of which the national oil corporation of Malaysia, Petronas, has the major share of 55 million ringgit. Other companies like the Malaysian Mining Corporation, and the country's plantation groups have entered the market, more are in the process of doing so. Malaysian businessmen have shown their willingness to offer their expertise to the Vietnamese business sector. At the same time, the Malaysian Government has agreed to assist Vietnam in upgrading its transportation and infrastructural facilities. Malaysia's technical experience in this field is undoubtedly of great help to Vietnam in its reconstruction efforts.

Vietnam has expressed its keenness in [words indistinct] in Malaysia's free market system as to follow international commercial norm. Malaysia can be depended upon to extend whatever system within its means in the true spirit of Southeast Asian cooperation.

Government Ready for Talks on Chinasteel Project

BK1604135492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0342 GMT Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is prepared to hold further discussions with the Taiwanese Government on its Chinasteel project in this country, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday.

Although the government was disappointed with the decision of the Taiwanese Government to postpone implementation of the project, it did not question the decision "as it was their right", he added.

He was speaking at a question and answer session with members of the Ornasteel Enterprise Corporation from Taiwan, who were here to witness the ground breaking ceremony of the Ornasteel project.

He said "We have been working on the Chinasteel project for more than two years.... I'm disappointed with the decision of the Taiwanese Parliament to postpone the project. But we do not question the decision and we are prepared to accept the project anytime or to give further explanation if necessary."

The prime minister said if the Taiwanese Government needed more explanation, the Malaysian Government was prepared to do so through discussions to resolve the matter.

During the session, the Taiwanese delegation suggested that Dr. Mahathir visit Taiwan and set up a committee for discussions to resolve the matter.

Dr. Mahathir said a high level committee had been established to prepare the project and resolve any problem.

A Taiwanese Member of Parliament [MP], Wu Der Mei, who is a member of the delegation, said the project was only postponed for the time being and this was done in the interest of Taiwanese workers.

Wu said she was one of the MPs who drafted the conditions necessary for the project.

The decision to postpone the project was made as they were uncertain about getting visas, work permits and incentives for the workers.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia respected Taiwan's desire to protect the interest of its workers.

He also said that visas for visitors and foreign tourists from Taiwan could be obtained in a short period and he did not forsee any problem in this regard.

The delegation also asked Dr. Mahathir about the government policy on foreign investments, the availability of manpower and establishment of banks.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was open to all foreign investors and many countries had an investment guarantee agreement with Malaysia.

Malaysia was prepared to work towards such an agreement with Taiwan, he added.

The prime minister said Malaysia only allowed a foreign country to set only one branch of its bank in this country.

On the question of manpower, he said that the Malaysian government did not encourage its people to work in foreign countries as the country was also experiencing a labour shortage.

However, if they chose to seek employment overseas the government could not prevent them from doing so, he added.

He said the government also could not ask other countries to accord special treatment to Malaysians working there.

Minister Views Move To Suspend ILO Membership

BK1504053992 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0337 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 15 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is unperturbed by the International Metal Workers Federation (IMF) move to suspend the country from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek said Tuesday the move and pressure mounted by the international labor grouping was "no big deal" to Malaysia.

"It's obvious that irresponsible unions here are up to their old tricks again to get their international counterparts to embarass Malaysia," he said.

Lim was commenting on the IMF move to recommend to the ILO governing body at its annual conference in Geneva this June to suspend Malaysia from the organisation's conferences.

The IMF was mounting the pressure to protest against the Malaysian Government policy which only allowed in-house unions for the 100,000 electronics workers in the country.

Lim said the ministry would not take any counter action. "It is not worth it," he added.

The minister said he knew the local union leaders behind the IMF move but he declined to reveal their identities.

He expressed disappointment over their attitude on the unionisation of electronics workers. "These people know we allow electronics workers here to form (in-house) unions, but they're not doing anything about it to help them," he said.

Lim gave the assurance that he would personally assist any applications to form in-house unions in the electronics industry.

The government allowed electronics workers to be unionised in 1989, but response from electronics workers had been very poor. Over the years, various international labour-based organisations had criticised Malaysia for not according what they described as "freedom of choice" to these workers.

Lim said the government only allowed in-house unions for the industry because it was "very sensitive" to the global market.

"The government wants the electronics industry to continue to be stable," he added. He pointed out that in-house unions enjoyed rights and responsibilities similar to those of national unions.

Offshore Banks, Firms May Operate Outside Labuan

BK1304120692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 92

[Text] Offshore banks and insurance firms intending to conduct business in the Labuan International Offshore Financial Center, IOFC, can now operate their management offices in Kuala Lumpur until the end of next year, while the Malaysian Government develops facilities in the financial park. Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim said the concession to operate from outside the Labuan IOFC will be an added incentive for potential investors. Guidelines for operating management offices in Kuala Lumpur are being finalized by Bank Negara, the central bank.

He says to ensure Labuan's take-off as a successful IOFC, infrastructural facilities are being developed more fully. Labuan IOFC was set up in 1990 to develop domestic, regional, and international financial and insurance markets. The minister was speaking at the opening of a three-day Asia-Pacific conference on bridging insurance across the world in the federal capital. Since the opening of the financial park, about 50 offshore firms inclusive of banks and insurance services have been established with an expanding volume of offshore (?ability) and the steady flow of investment inquiries.

Singapore

PSA To Help Vietnam Develop Port Facilities

BK1704042992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Singapore, April 16 (AFP)—Vietnam has received a positive reply from the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) to help it develop and improve its port facilities and management expertise, a Vietnamese official said Thursday.

Vietnamese First Vice Minister of Transport, Communications and Post Le Kha also said he believed that with the signing of the first high-level agreement on shipping between the two governments there would be closer cooperation in the maritime field.

"Before this agreement we had very few contacts with PSA. But we are sure we will send our experts to PSA to learn from them," Le said. "We had a meeting with PSA yesterday to discuss our needs and on ways to cooperate. We are happy we have received a positive reply."

The Trade Development Board (TDB) said Tuesday when it first announced the agreement that it would "foster greater cooperation and strengthen shipping links between Singapore and Vietnam."

Both countries have also accorded each other's vessels most-favoured-nation status, which means they will be allowed to participate in each other's inland trucking activities. Six Singapore companies ply the route to Vietnam and more are expected to join the service later.

Le said the basic infrastructure in Vietnam was still "very poor" although the government was taking steps to redress the problem, including the building of a road from the Hanoi international airport to the city.

He added that most Vietnamese ports have limited handling capacity and the government was trying its best to increase their capacity.

The Vietnamese authorities will work with Singaporean companies to improve the infrastructure in ports such as Ho Chi Minh City, Danang and Haiphong, Le said.

Lim Boon Heng, Singapore's senior minister of state for trade and industry, said seaborne trade between the two countries was estimated at more than three million freight tonnes.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's trip to Singapore in October was the first high-level official visit here from Vietnam in 13 years. Singapore late last year lifted an investment ban which it imposed in 1978 to protest Vietnam's invasion and occupation of Cambodia.

In January the TDB organised a trade mission to Vietnam and since then several private sector and semi-government organisations have visited the country to establish trade and economic ties.

In March, Singapore Airlines resumed air links to Ho Chi Minh City after a break of nearly 17 years, and in May it will fly to Hanoi.

Bilateral trade between the two countries totalled one billion dollars (610 million U.S.) in 1991 with the island being Vietnam's largest trading partner.

Cambodia

U.S. POW/MIA Senate Committee To Visit

BK1704032692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 16—Five U.S senators seeking answers for the cases of hundreds of Americans still considered missing in action in Indochina will pay a five-day visit to the region next week, AFP quoted the U.S. mission here as saying Wednesday [15 April].

The delegation is led by Senator John Kerry, a democrat from Massachusetts, who chairs the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs in Washington.

He is accompanied by his vice chairman, Senator Bob Smith, a Republican from New Hampshire, and three others.

They are to spend one day, April 20, in the Cambodian capital meeting with Phnom Penh Government officials including Prime Minister Hun Sen, Foreign Minister Hor Nambong and his Deputy Long Visalo, who chairs a committee helping the Americans search for MIA remains in Cambodia.

They will also have an audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state, who was deposed by a U.S.-backed coup in 1970.

Prince Sihanouk returned from exile in November to preside over a UN-supervised interim body grouping the four Cambodian factions—the Supreme National Council (SNC)—in the final phase of the end of the civil war.

Its representative here is accredited only to the SNC, but the mission has regular dealings with Phnom Penh government officials and Hun Sen was recently received in Washington by senior-level U.S. officials.

Accompanying Kerry and Smith are Virginia Democrat Charles Robb, Iowa Republican Charles Grassley and Republican from Colorado Hank Brown.

The United States has offices in Phnom Penh and Hanoi dedicated to searching for MIA's and checking out reports of prisoners of war (POW's).

Washington has made a "fullest-possible accounting" of those missing since the Vietnam war a priority task to be completed this year.

Self-Reliance, Unity Urged in New Year

BK1704062392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Station editorial: "Binding the New Year's Merriment and Tasks Together"]

[Text] This is the 14th year since the motherland was salvaged from the danger of genocide, and the Cambodian people across the country have celebrated the Cambodian New Year—the Year of the Monkey, Buddhist Era 2535—with great joy, according to our national tradition. The New Year celebration was held at a time when all the Cambodian parties are implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris peace accord to bring about peace, national reunification, and prosperity to the nation and motherland in the future.

Everywhere throughout the country, including cities, townships, and remote rural areas, our people are happily celebrating the national festivities, performing Buddhist rites according to the national tradition and customs. People—male and female alike—in their elegant attire went to monasteries to build up sand or rice hills, wash statues of the Lord Buddha, and participate in popular games. They also went to folk and modern music concerts performed at many public places while the others played in various parks.

As for leaders of our party, state authorities, and mass organizations at all levels, they paid visits and distributed gifts and money to [words indistinct], sick combatants in hospitals, families of fallen and wounded combatants, and outstanding families. They also performed religious rituals to pay tribute to the spirits of the cadres, combatants, and people who have lost their lives for the cause of the nation and motherland.

In sum, the traditional New Year celebration was held in gaiety, safety, and good order even though the other Cambodian side remains insincere about implementing the peace agreement—specifically, the Khmer Rouge side continues to violate the cease-fire accord. Thanks to the attention dedicated by the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of our State of Cambodia [SOC] to organizing various forms of entertainment throughout the country, our people were able to joyfully celebrate the New Year as they wished according to our tradition and customs. Our people's police forces were constantly upholding their awareness to ensure safety and social order during the New Year celebration. While joyously celebrating the New Year, our cadres, employees, and workers continued to further heighten the spirit of defending their respective departments, institutions, factories, and enterprises. And our people across the country were effectively implementing the "Three Do Not Report, One Does" motto.

The traditional New Year celebration held in an atmosphere of delight has provided our people with new energy and wisdom, making them clearly aware of the

current supreme task—the national reunification task—that they must actively carry out. Our people throughout the country have proudly heightened their awareness of everything they have achieved as a contribution to the cause of the nation and motherland, and they are prepared to forge ahead to score more new, greater successes in this New Year, the Year of the Monkey.

However, since the sincere implementation by the SOC side of the Paris peace accord, the Khmer Rouge have on many occasions breached the agreement and cease-fire, causing disasters to our people's peaceful lives. That being the case, the Cambodian people, in this New Year, are determined to closely join the party and Government of the SOC to promote the CPP's political program, making it successful in compliance with the gist of the New Year greetings message read by His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the SOC State Council [as heard].

The people should uphold their spirit of self-reliance and a high sense of responsibility for their own destiny and future and the fate and future of the motherland by hoisting aloft the banner of national solidarity and unity. And they should intensify their tasks for the cause of the nation, motherland, and people and in the interests of genuine peace and national reunification. This is to develop the country in order to progress rapidly in accordance with Samdech Euv's [Sihanouk's] Sangkum Reas Niyum policy and Cambodia's democratic system. Along with this, the people should be involved in eliminating, with concrete and necessary measures, negative phenomena and corrupt practices in society and strive to improve their living conditions and make adequate preparations to tackle rice cultivation in the coming rainy season.

Progress of Accord Implementation Examined

BK1604113792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Apr 92

["The criteria for judging who has and who has not implemented the Paris agreement and for deciding how UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) should behave to maintain its influence and that of the United Nations"]

[Text] It is imperative to recall the important points of the Paris agreement aimed at ending the Vietnamese war of aggression and enabling Cambodia to enjoy peace with independence so that the Cambodian people can exercise their right to self-determination. Only by recalling these important points and relating the existing situation will one have a clear view of the criteria for judging how the agreement has been implemented.

Now, let us recall five important points as follows:

1. The two key elements and the implementation of the agreement:

There are two fundamental elements in the Paris agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia to restore peace, independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and national unity for Cambodia.

First, the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] are to supervise the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Second, the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions are to be dissolved first by 70 percent and later by 100 percent.

Only after these elements have been implemented will Cambodia have peace and independence. If they are not, there can be neither peace nor independence in Cambodia.

Lately, there have been two parties with different or antagonistic views on the implementation of this agreement.

First, one of them has ignored, avoided, or forestalled these two elements, and has tried to work out and implement an agreement that is totally different from the Paris agreement.

We wonder whether they want to implement the Paris agreement and end the Vietnamese war of aggression or want the war to continue. Do they wish to see Cambodia enjoy peace with independence or do they not?

Second, meanwhile, another party has continued to demand the implementation of these two elements. Does this party want to implement the agreement or not? Does it want to end the Vietnamese war of aggression or not? Does it wish to see Cambodia enjoy peace with independence or not?

2. The comprehensive role of the SNC and UNTAC in implementing the Paris agreement:

The Paris agreement clearly mentions the SNC and UNTAC as two interim authorities in Cambodia during the transitional period. They have the right and power to discuss and carry out accords and state affairs and implement the Paris agreement in all aspects. So far, there are two different views on the role of the interim authorities. They are as follows:

First, one party wants the SNC and UNTAC to wield full powers as has been clearly defined in the Paris agreement. Does this party want to implement the agreement or not?

Second, another party does not want to give that role to the SNC and UNTAC. In fact, they want to reduce it. In particular, it opposes the role of the SNC and wants it reduced. However, this bolsters the role of the regime installed at gunpoint by the Vietnamese aggressors and allows them to actually manage all affairs in Cambodia. Is this contrary to or in accordance with the Paris agreement? If this is the case, can the war be ended? Can

Cambodia enjoy peace and independence? Can there be national reconciliation and reunification?

3. Regarding the supervisory role of the SNC and UNTAC:

The Paris agreement clearly states that the quadripartite Cambodian SNC and UNTAC will control and supervise the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and dismantle the Armed Forces of the four factions. But how has the implementation of this provision proceeded so far? It is like this:

One party has opposed and tried to reduce the supervisory role of the quadripartite Cambodian SNC and UNTAC. It has tried to reduce the role of the SNC, preventing it from supervising the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the other party has demanded that these two interim state authorities supervise both the Vietnamese withdrawal and the dissolution of the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions by 70 percent in the first stage and 100 percent later on.

One wonders who is implementing the agreement and who is opposing it? Who is good? Who is bad? Who wants peace and who wants to continue the war so that Cambodia remains ruined forever?

4. An election in line with the Paris agreement and an election under the guns of the Vietnamese troops and Vietnamese aggressor administration in Phnom Penh:

In line with the Paris agreement the election is free, democratic, correct, and fair to be conducted in a neutral political environment throughout Cambodia. In essence, this is the real election. However, how have the preparations for the election been so far?

First, at present, the Vietnamese aggressors and company want to hold an election under the Phnom Penh regime, which was installed by the Vietnamese aggressors under the gun barrels of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor troops which continue to occupy Cambodia. Is this in line with or against the Paris agreement? If it is against, can the election be held freely, democratically, correctly, and fairly? Or is it bandits' democracy? If this is the case, can the objectives of the Paris agreement—to see peace and independence restored in Cambodia and Cambodians exercising their right to self- determination—be attained? Can the aspirations of the Cambodian people, the ASEAN countries, and the world—to see Cambodia enjoy happiness and peace with independence and Southeast Asia enjoy peace and stability—be fulfilled?

Second, the other party calls on the SNC and UNTAC to first supervise the complete withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and to dissolve the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions by 100 percent. This is to eliminate all the problems of war, armed clashes, or any menace and pressure from any foreign aggressors or any party. Only then can the election be held in an atmosphere of political neutrality, peace, and national reconciliation. Only when this is achieved will Cambodian people fully enjoy their right to decide their own destiny and can the election be held freely, democratically, correctly, and fairly. Only when it is so can Cambodia enjoy peace and independence, and the ultimate goal of the Paris agreement be realized in line with the aspirations of the Cambodians, Southeast Asians, and world who want peace, independence, and justice in Cambodia as well as in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

5. The preparations for elections and other security matters in Phnom Penh and the provinces are directly related to the UN human rights principles and theories:

Holding a free, democratic, correct, and fair election according to the Paris agreement is the implementation of the principles and theories on human rights as described in the UN Charter. The state of insecurity in Phnom Penh and the provinces and the unceasing Vietnamese war of aggression are both related to the question of human rights. However, how can the election be called free, democratic, correct, and fair if it is to be held under the gun barrel and the regime of the Vietnamese aggressors with Vietnamese A-3 agents operating everywhere in Phnom Penh and the provinces? Where then is the Cambodian people's right to self-determination? Where then are the universal human rights principles of the United Nations? Will the Cambodians agree to an election held under the gun barrel and regime of the Vietnamese aggressors? Will peace come to Cambodia? Will there be stability in the United Nations?

All the five points described above are the criteria for assessing to date the outcome of the implementation of the Paris agreement and for judging who wants and who does not want to implement it. In this situation, one wonders how UNTAC should play its role, how it should behave, and how it should maintain its stance to comply with the aspirations of the people and promote the correct implementation of the Paris agreement in accordance with the genuine provisions of this agreement. They also constitute the criteria for determining the influence of UNTAC and the United Nations in Cambodia and the world.

UN Opens Checkpoints To Verify Troop Withdrawal

BK1604103092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 16 (AFP)—United Nations peacekeepers opened three checkpoints on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border Thursday, the first of up to a dozen intended to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

Two of the points are south of the Mekong River's entry point into Cambodia and one is at the river itself, U.N. military officials said.

The points at Don Ho Tien, Tinh Bien and the Mekong are each manned by two U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) military officers, two UNTAC policemen and one Australian communications specialist.

Under the U.N.-enforced peace treaty ending the Cambodian civil war, the United Nations has responsibility for making sure that all foreign forces have been withdrawn from Cambodia and that none return.

This is to be accomplished by the border checkpoints, which will also attempt to halt any cross-border arms trafficking, U.N. military officials have said.

Nine border points along Vietnam were forecast by the peace treaty, but the Khmer Rouge have asked for an additional two or three as a precondition for allowing U.N. forces to freely inspect their territory.

Seven points are to be set up along the border with Thailand, and a team went this week to Bangkok for negotiations. U.N. officers have hinted that the Phnom Penh government had also asked for more than the allotted amount of checkpoints.

The Thai Government has allowed the resupply of the Khmer Rouge forces through its border throughout the civil war, while Vietnamese troops actively fought here until at least 1979.

The Khmer Rouge claim Vietnamese troops are still fighting their forces in Cambodia, a charge which Hanoi adamantly denies.

Skirmishes in Kompong Thom Called Not Serious

BK1604093892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 92

[From the program "International Report"]

[Text] The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has now been in place for one month, but its Australian military commander, General John Sanderson, says it feels like a year. Some 120 of a planned contingent of 500 Australian troops to take part in the UNTAC operation arrived in Phnom Penh this morning. As they left Australia, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said all Australia's troops would be withdrawn if civil war continued in Cambodia.

Government and Khmer Rouge troops have been fighting since mid January in the central province of Kompong Thom where small clashes are continuing despite a renewed cease-fire. Sue Downie in Phnom Penh spoke to Gen. Sanderson and asked him how serious these skirmishes in Kompong Thom were.

[Begin recording] [Sanderson] They are nothing serious. I mean any of these skirmishes are serious, if you actually happen to be there, but looking at it from a distance, we haven't had a significant breach of the cease-fire. Unfortunately, the factions are still in contact and my negotiating position is one of withdrawal from contact so that we can put UN forces into the villages and so on, and verify withdrawl and nonreturn of forces.

I am very determined to allow the people to get back into their villages prior to the wet season, so that they can be in a position to plant a rice crop. It doesn't look good at this stage.

[Downie] Given that UNTAC has been here only a month and Kompong Thom is still not a resolved issue—the forces haven't separated—do you think that there is going to be more slippage in the program and the election may, in fact, be delayed beyond April next year.

[Sanderson] Gosh, is it a month? It seems more like a year. There has been a lot of things happening that month, but I think we have made considerable progress in the month. We still have a lot of people to come into the country and we really have been working on a shoestring and this was to be expected. The budget is still to be approved in New York and we still have the bulk of the headquarters and the bulk of the observers to arrive here, and indeed, the bulk of the civilian staff. So, in view of the fact that we have been working with such limited resources, I think we have made good progress.

[Downie] There is no indication at this stage that the whole program might be slipping and the election target may not be met?

[Sanderson] Not from my point of view. I mean I am not looking in detail at other people's programs at the moment. Let me tell you there is enough intensity on my own part to keep me entirely focused on it.

[Downie] Are you happy that the military side is on the target?

[Sanderson] I am happy that we are going to make the program base which we have set for ourselves. There is no question about the fact that we are crisis managing the logistic deployment of the force over the next month, but it is all starting to come together. [end recording]

Indonesia

Alatas: No Objection to Talks With Portugal, UN

BK1704043692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says Indonesia has no objection to resume the tripartite talks with Portugal and the United Nations as long as the talks are held in the old format, namely without the participation of the East Timorese people living overseas. Speaking in Jakarta last night on his return from Beijing to attend the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] meeting, Alatas stressed that Indonesia did not object to the old-format talks, which were held between 1983 and September 1991. Alatas noted that Indonesia's

stand on this issue had been relayed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, who was also attending the ESCAP meeting in Beijing.

Alatas added that if any East Timorese want to attend the talks, they must now be residents of the province, which had exercised its self-determination rights 17 years ago. Alatas said he had stated these views to the UN secretary general, who had in turn promised to continue his efforts to seek the best solution to the problem for Indonesia and Portugal.

Minister Asked To Explain Stand to Netherlands

BK1604163692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] President Suharto has instructed Trade Minister Arifin Siregar to explain to the Netherlands Government and people that Indonesia wants to maintain and even expand ties with that country in all fields except in the economic assistance program. Speaking to reporters after meeting with the president at the Bina Graha presidential office today, Minister Siregar said he and his personnel would carry out the president's instruction.

During the meeting, Siregar briefed the president on his upcoming working visits to Spain, France, and the Netherlands aimed at promoting Indonesian products and fostering relations between Indonesian businessmen and their counterparts in those countries. The president also instructed the trade minister to find ways to increase the inflow of Netherland tourists to Indonesia.

Business Association With Morocco Set Up

BK1604143692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0827 GMT16 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 16 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia and Morocco set up a business association in a meeting held in Casablanca recently to accommodate businessmen from the two countries to discuss trade relations, the Indonesian Embassy in Morocco has said.

The association (Chami) is headed by Omar Berrada, president director of a coffee firm, Cafe [words indistinct] Casablanca with nine administration board members from Moroccan businessmen who have business relations with Indonesia and representatives from the Indonesian Embassy, it said in a release received here on Thursday.

Moroccan Foreign Trade Minister Hassan Abou Ayoub has said he was willing to become an honorary chairman of the organization along with Indonesian Ambassador in Morocco Boer Mauna and former Mexican [as received] Ambassador to Indonesia Chaouki Benazzou as honorary members.

Indonesia's exports to Morocco in 1990 reached a total of US$19 million while imports from that country were recorded at US$40 million.

Among the commodities exported to that country are coffee, tea, natural rubber, vegetable oil and tobacco.

Indonesia and Morocco signed trade accord in 1988, followed by Jakarta and Casablanca Chambers of Commerce in 1990 and Boards of Craftsmen in 1991.

Envoy Says Belgium Backs Establishment of CGI

BK1604123692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0810 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Brussels, April 16 (ANTARA)—Belgium supports the establishment of a 'Consultative Group for Indonesia' (CGI) by the World Bank to collect funds to finance Indonesia's development, replacing the defunct Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI).

The Belgian support has been conveyed by top officials of the Belgian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Trade at meetings with the Indonesian ambassador to Belgium, Zahairsjah.

Ambassador Zahairsjah told ANTARA on Wednesday that immediately after the Indonesian Government's decision to reject Dutch development aid and requesting that country to stop holding IGGI meetings, he held meetings with several Belgian top officials to discuss the problem of development aid, among others with Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, Vice Minister for Development Cooperation Edward De Rijcke and Minister of Foreign Trade R. Urbain.

The World Bank had agreed to the Indonesian request for the establishment of a Consultative Group for Indonesia and according to schedule the group would hold its first meeting in Paris on July 16-17, 1992, the ambassador informed.

In a series of meetings since March 30, the Belgian top officials explained to Ambassador Zahairsjah that there was no change in the Belgian policy on development cooperation and that the Belgian Government would uphold its aid commitment to Indonesia.

Belgium also welcomed the World Bank's readiness to establish a Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI) to replace the IGGI as requested by Indonesia.

On Belgian aid this year, Zahairsjah said that it was still not known, because the Belgian draft budget would be submitted to parliament by the end of April.

But most probably there will be a cut in the Belgian development aid because of a reduction in the country's budget due to this country joining the European Monetary Union (EMU), he added.

Prerequisites for all member countries of the European Community to join the EMU were among others deficit free budgets and small state debts, the ambassador explained.

Meanwhile the head of the economic section of the Indonesian Embassy in Brussels, Roni Hidayat Gastina,

told ANTARA that since 1983, Indonesia had been grouped by Belgium as a developing country with an improved economy, so that the Belgian aid (to Indonesia) was in the form of mixed credits, consisting of 30 per cent of soft loans and 70 per cent of export credits.

Belgian soft loans covered a reimbursement period of 30 years with a grace period of ten years without interest.

In the last three years, Belgian loans to Indonesia had been increasing, amounting on July 19, 1989, including the balance of the previous years, to 383.36 million Belgian francs of which 380 million had been used.

Of the loan amounting to 465 million Belgian francs, agreed on May 16, 1991, 193.8 million had been used.

Of the loan agreement, signed on June 20, 1991, amounting to 585 million Belgian francs, 270.32 million had been used.

The Belgian Government has also expressed satisfaction on the cooperation and its fruitful consultations with Indonesian officials, Roni Hidayat Gastina said.

Vice President Sudharmono Arrives in Tokyo

BK1604163492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Vice President Sudharmono is scheduled to hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Tokyo. The meeting with the Japanese leader is within the framework of Vice President Sudharmono's working visit to the country expected to last until 21 April.

Our correspondents Suratno and Suria Serigar report from Tokyo said that Vice President and Mrs. Sudharmono, and members of the entourage arrived in Haneda Airport, Tokyo this afternoon from Pyongyang, DPRK.

DPRK President Kim Il-song received Vice President Sudharmono in Pyongyang this morning.

Thailand

Cabinet List Delayed; Suchinda Meets King

BK1704021992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun met leaders of key parties in the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition last night following a last-minute delay to the planned announcement of his Cabinet yesterday.

The meeting followed a day marred by protests and an ugly incident between Gen Suchinda's security guards and reporters.

It was widely thought earlier in the day that the new Cabinet list would be announced at 7 p.m. [1200 GMT on 16 April] after Prime Minister Suchinda was granted an audience with His Majesty the King at Chitlada Palace.

Staff members at Radio Thailand confirmed they had been put on standby to announce the new line-up but the order was scrapped after Gen Suchinda left the palace at about 6:30 p.m.

Well-informed Government sources said Gen Suchinda was granted an audience with His Majesty the King for about one hour, but declined to say what was discussed.

The Prime Minister went to the palace at about 4 p.m. after meeting over lunch with leaders of the Samakkhi Tham [STP], Chat Thai, Social Action [SAP], Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon Parties at the Army Hall.

Gen Suchinda had given the leaders of the five political parties until yesterday to forward their lists of Cabinet members for his consideration.

When asked about the issue on his arrival at the Central Plaza Hotel, where he hosted a party for pro-government MPs last night, Gen Suchinda said the list of Cabinet members would be announced today.

The Premier said his request for an audience with His Majesty the King had nothing to do with the Cabinet list but was about something else. He did not elaborate, however.

The Premier said there had been "no problem" with announcing the Cabinet list yesterday. Everything was "all right," he said.

At last night's function, Gen Suchinda's security guards and aides cleared the way for him by elbowing reporters surrounding him out of the way.

"It's a path," Gen Suchinda said, referring to his entrance to the hotel.

Several members of the Press, including women reporters, were hurt in the incident.

In a show of their anger at the guards' rough and rude treatment, the reporters handed a written protest to Gen Suchinda inside the dining room and booed him and the coalition leaders as they left the function.

Earlier yesterday, throngs of protesters converged in front of Parliament, mostly in black dress, to protest against Gen Suchinda's rise to the premiership.

Opposition MPs also wore black to mourn his appointment, saying he was not an elected member of Parliament.

Details of Gen Suchinda's discusion with the coalition leaders after last night's function were not known, but they were thought to have centred around the delay to the announcement of the Cabinet list.

Many people, including members of opposition parties, have expressed reservations about the planned inclusion in Cabinet of men who were declared unusually rich by the Assets Examination Committee.

Gen Suchinda said last night he had sought another audience with His Majesty the King today and the list would be announced as soon as it had been approved by His Majesty.

It was not known whether the "unusually-rich" politicians would still be included in the list.

Well-informed sources in the STP-led coalition said at least three of the politicians, including SAP leader Montri Phongphanit and Chat Thai deputy leaders Sano Thianthong and Watthana Atsawahem were still on the list yesterday.

Mr Montri has been tipped to be appointed deputy prime minister, while Mr Sano and Mr Watthana are believed to have been nominated as deputy communications and deputy interior ministers respectively.

Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong, who has recently been tipped to become deputy prime minister and education minister, said earlier yesterday he expected the Cabinet list to be announced last night.

Mr Sombun insisted the parties in the coalition had had no problems working out the list and predicted the anti-Suchinda protests would eventually subside.

Suchinda Said Undemocratic

BK1704024092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Parliament looked different yesterday when it convened for its weekly meeting with opposition MPs dressing in black in a protest against outsider Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

Leaders of the opposition parties: New Aspiration Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Phalang Tham Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang, Democrat Chuan Likphai and Solidarity Uthai Phimchaichon, and their MPs all dressed in black or wore black funeral arm bands to mourn what they said was the death of Thai democracy.

Maj-Gen Chamlong wore a black Chut Phra Ratchathan, a formal attire for men, with a sticker on his chest stating "Lose Your Life But Not Your Word" and on his back another sticker stating "There Is No Liar Who Does Not Commit a Sin."

Members of the Campaign for Popular Democracy, which combines groups of academics, university students, workers and non-governmental organisations under the umbrella organisation to campaign for true democracy and an elected prime minister, also wore black and handed out black arm bands to passersby.

Representatives of the campaign submitted letters to all 11 political parties in the House of Representatives saying that Gen Suchinda's acceptance of the premiership contradicts democratic principles and the will of the people, as well as constituting an extension of the power of the National Peace-keeping Council since he is a leader of the military junta that staged the February 23 coup d'etat last year.

The letter claimed that the former army chief also "organised" the drafting of an undemocratic constitution, interfered in the affairs of political parties in setting up the government and pressured them into nominating himself for the premiership.

Gen Suchinda's acceptance of the prime minister post contradicts democratic tradition, the letter said, and called on all MPs and political parties to join the campaign against an outsider prime minister and withdraw support for Gen Suchinda.

Meanwhile, police throughout Bangkok were placed on alert yesterday morning as pro-democracy groups joined opposition MPs in calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda.

About 10 policemen at each of the 70 stations were readied for deployment in case of any violence.

Starting early in the morning, pro-democracy groups and MPs gathered around former MP Chalat Worachat who has been on a hunger strike since Gen Suchinda assumed the premiership more than a week ago.

Vietnam

Radio on U.S. Lifting Telecommunications Embargo

BK1704035692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Station commmentary]

[Text] The U.S. on Monday said it would modify its economic embargo against Vietnam to allow the establishment of telecommunications links. In her written statement, the spokeswoman of the State Department said the U.S. decision to lift the telecommunications ban is in keeping with the established policy of a step-by-step process of normalization of relations with Vietnam.

Late last year the U.S. administration removed the restrictions toward Vietnamese diplomats in New York, allowing them to move within only 25 miles from the city. Five months later the U.S. now took another step by lifting the ban on telecommunications with Vietnam.

In the process of normalization of the U.S.-Vietnamese relations, the U.S. takes short steps while Vietnam has always been prepared to respond to U.S. requirements in solving the MIA issue. Moreover, whatever Vietnam did is not linked with any political condition. Over the past 15 years Vietnam handed over to the U.S. some 127 sets of American remains. Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State Solomon, in an interview granted to Radio VOA on 7 April, said he was pleased at Vietnam's deed. The spokeswoman for the State Department lately also confirmed Vietnam's efforts in solving the MIA issue.

Of course Vietnam remains active in solving this humanitarian issue if the U.S. does not take these steps, for this is a question of human feelings. The U.S. decision to lift the ban on telecommunications with Vietnam responds to the aspirations of the very American public, especially the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Mr Solomon also disclosed that at present the U.S. business circles is expecting the normalization of the U.S.-Vietnamese relations because the trade embargo does no good to either side.

Khanh, French Envoy at Francophone Symposium

BK1704080492 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—A symposium on "National Cultural Identity of French-Speaking Countries in Southeast Asia" was held here on April 14-15 by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Sports in coordination with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT).

This is the first such symposium organized in Vietnam with the participation of 50 cultural workers from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and French Ambassador to Vietnam Claude Blanchemaison, attended the meeting.

The participants requested ACCT to continue to help Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in organising a seminar on "the maintenance of national cultural heritage," building a village of national cultures in the capital of each country, and undertaking other cultural activities.

Radio Previews Visit by Malaysia's Mahathir

BK1704040492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has announced that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed will pay an official visit to Vietnam soon. This is in reply to the Malaysian visit by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet early this year. It is also to strengthen and further develop bilateral ties.

The Indonesian president and the Thai prime minister paid visits to Vietnam last year. Now the head of the Malaysian government is coming to Vietnam. He is the first high-ranking leader of the ASEAN member countries to visit Hanoi. Though the visit is to be made [passage indistinct] said Malaysia sets great store by the friendship with Vietnam [words indistinct] a strong and developed Vietnam greatly benefits Malaysia, he added.

At present economic relations between the two countries have quickly developed. Trade turnover increased by seven times over the past five years and 70 percent last year alone. Malaysia is one of the biggest investors in Vietnam. It has entered into a U.S.$1.5 million joint venture to Vietnam in extraction and processing of rubber. In the future Malaysia and Vietnam will cooperate in the fields of oil and gas, posts and banking. It is expected that some important economic agreements will be concluded between Vietnam and Malaysia during the Vietnam visit by Mr Mahathir Mohamed.

The first visit to Vietnam of the head of the Malaysian Government will be one of the memorable events in the history of bilateral relations. It is hoped that this event will contribute to strengthening and developing relations between Vietnam and Malaysia.

Editorial Hails National Assembly Success

BK1604124992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Station editorial]

[Text] The 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly—the last session of its term—has unanimously passed the 1992 SRV Constitution. This is an event of great, far-reaching significance in various aspects. From now on, this basic law will help us accelerate the renovation set by the party and gradually build a law-governed state.

This Constitution of the state defines the political, economic, cultural, and social systems; the citizens' fundamental rights and obligations; and the structure and work principle of state agencies. It also institutionalizes the relationship in which the people are masters, the state managers, and the party the leaders.

The adoption of the 1992 Constitution was made through the intellectual contributions of people from all strata, cadres, and combatants throughout the country. According to incomplete statistics, more than 9.23 million people participated in the discussions and contributed ideas to the revised Constitution. Some contributed ideas to dozens of articles, others wrote a new preamble and certain chapters, while many wrote dozens of articles contributing ideas to the draft amendments. Noteworthy is that people throughout the country enthusiastically contributed their views during the extensive far-reaching political campaign launched during late February-early March to solicit their ideas. The completion of the Constitution was also due to the great efforts of all National Assembly deputies and the Constitution Amendment Committee who worked urgently, seriously, carefully, and with a high sense of responsibility.

On the basis of the people's views, National Assembly deputies' suggestions at the various sessions, and party and state leaders' advice; and on the basis of our previous constitutions and selected experiences of foreign countries, the Constitution Amendment Committee formulated four drafts of amendments to the Constitution. Nevertheless, the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session still needed a lot of time, including sessions at night,

to further discuss and debate on the thousands of ideas and to carefully revise certain articles, phrases, and words to perfect the Constitution. Finally, to reach a unanimous approval of the revised Constitution, the National Assembly conducted three rounds of voting on some articles while certain phrases and words were approved through separate voting. As a result, the Constitution was formulated in the spirit of openness and democracy, symbolizing the intellegence of the entire people and the National Assembly, the sole organ with the authority to formulate the Constitution and laws of our country.

The revised Constitution is composed of the preamble and 147 articles in 12 chapters, of which 23 articles are new and 115 revised. As a result, the old constitution was fundamentally and comprehensively revised.

The fundamental content of the 1992 Consitution asserts that in our society all powers stem from the people, our state is of the people, by the people, and for the people. The organization and activities of the state apparatus are designed in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. All state powers are integrated into the National Assembly and no division of power is made to seperate the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. However, the division of work and authority has been made among the National Assembly, the government, and the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control to enable each agency to effectively carry out its function and authority while closely coordinating with one another to create the people's combined strength under party leadership.

The Constitution also contains various articles and chapters to ensure the people's rights to freedom and equality in working and doing business. Article 15 of Chapter 2 on the economic system, for instance, stipulates that the state will develop the multisectorial commodity economy in accordance with the market mechanism based on state management and socialist orientations; while Article 22 of the same chapter stipulates that all production and business establishments belonging to different economic sectors are equal before the law and their legal holdings are protected by the law.

The Constitution has institutionalized the party's open-door policy, specifying that the state must encourage foreign organizations to invest capital and technology in Vietnam. This is to be done according to Vietnamese and international law and general rules. Foreign organizations will also be assured of enjoying the legal right of ownership over capital and property. That and their other interests and businesses with foreign investment are not subject to nationalization. These are new and important articles that can certainly interest the public and affirm Vietnam's goodwill in wanting to befriend all countries of the world.

The Constitution defends the democratic rights of all citizens in the political, economic, and cultural domains. At the same time, it clearly stipulates the obligations and responsibilities of every person, stating that the rights of citizens are inseparable from their obligations. Talking about the rights and obligations of citizens also means talking about the relations between citizens and the state and between individuals and collectives.

The Constitution specifies that the state must guarantee all the rights of citizens while citizens must fulfill their obligations to the state and society, as in Article 49.

Like the views of millions of voters, when discussing the revised draft Constitution at this National Assembly session, all the views of the deputies were in agreement with the contents of Article 4 of the draft, which affirmed the aims of building socialism in our country and the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam over the state and society. The party assumes leadership but cannot overlook or take over the work of the state. Article 4 was passed in the first voting at this National Assembly session with an absolute majority.

After many years and months of painstaking work with views of the entire people, we rejoice that our state now has a Constitution that suits the characteristics and the new situation of our country, fully reflecting the aspirations of the people of all strata for national defense and construction.

In the immediate future, it is the task of every citizen, no matter his position or profession, to study and fully understand the Constitution which the National Assembly has just passed.

In addition to studying the Constitution, all party committees and administrative echelons and mass organizations must disseminate the Constitution to all people in a variety of ways.

In drafting the revised Constitution, there were different views on a number of specific issues and standpoints. However, since the fundamental law of the state has now been passed and officially enforced by the National Assembly, all citizens are duty-bound to seek to understand and scrupulously abide by the Constitution.

Nevertheless, to ensure that every citizen respects and abides by the Constitution, we hope that all law organs will urgently amend certain articles of various documents—from laws and decrees to theoretical materials—that are no longer suitable to the new contents of the Constitution. We hope they will soon draw up documents to concretize various articles of the Constitution and reexamine and readjust various materials and lectures at all colleges and research institutes to suit the spirit and language of the Constitution. This will enable the entire people to correctly and systematically apply the Constitution to life in our entire society.

We also hope that when the 1992 Constitution is promulgated, our state will soon reorganize and streamline all state agencies from central to grass-roots levels to increase management efficiency, strengthen the legal

system, and create a mechanism that can limit or eliminate manifestations of negativism in state management and social life, encourage production to develop, ensure political security, and achieve social justice.

Entry Circular Issued for Overseas Vietnamese

BK1604161192 Hanoi VNA in English 1547 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—An interministerial circular on entry, exit, residence and travel of overseas Vietnamese was promulgated on April 7 by the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Commission for Overseas Vietnamese.

The circular is aimed at implementing the state policy and meeting the legitimate aspirations of overseas Vietnamese on the basis of the law in force of Vietnam.

The circular stipulates, among other things, that all Vietnamese residents abroad can apply for entry in Vietnam. Priority shall be given to those who carry the Vietnamese nationality, credited with services to the revolution, and intellectuals desirous to contribute to national development. Priority shall also be given to their children, who wish to return and study in Vietnam with financial support from their family relatives or an organisation. Overseas Vietnamese who are engaged in activities against Vietnam's security, and those who are international criminals shall be denied the issue of entry visas to Vietnam. Applications of one-time law offenders shall be considered three years after their latest offences. Tourists and investors do not come under the purview of this circular.

The circular also stipulates that applications for repatriation of those who have legitimate reasons and are able to assure their living in the country shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

More Refugees Return From Hong Kong

BK1704032292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Another 216 Vietnamese refugees left Hong Kong for home on Tuesday [14 April] under the voluntary repatriation program of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees]. The program has been conducted since March 1989.

Domestic Flights Resumed in Central Provinces

BK1704032492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] The first domestic flight by Vietnam Airlines from Phu Cat in Binh Dinh Province to Danang in central Vietnam on 2 April rose tour transport on the central coast from a slumber that has lasted almost 17 years. Now, growing demand for fast transport to serve tourism and business has prompted Vietnam Airlines to resume regular short flights between some central airports.

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